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The Long Island FISH[illegible]

The Difference Betwee[illegible] Fish!

October [illegible], 1975, ISSUE No. 39

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FALL RUN OF FLOUNDER

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Fall Bass Love Bucktails

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THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, No. 39 October 9th, 1975

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ABOUT THE COVER: Women's Lib comes to the world of fishing. Ginny, the mate on Captain Bill Barbieri's "Lady Alice" out of Montauk, unhooks a hefty blue taken at the Submarine Buoy recently. Photo by Frank Quinones Jr.

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Chum Lines

Litter Letter

This letter is in support of Mr. A. Massiotti, whose latter appeared in the Aug. 21, 1975 issue.

I have seen this practice of wholesale littering on boats from Montauk, Captree, Freeport, and Sheepshead Bay as well. Not all boats mind you! Some of them would just as soon throw you overboard with your garbage.

I have found there to be three types of party boats. 1. The well equipped boats with garbage cans provided and with mates who will chew you out for littering. 2. The "false front" boats whose garbage cans are well placed until the ride home when all of the garbage is dumped overboard. 3. The "pig boats" who provide no garbage cans and consider you a nuisance if you ask for a garbage can so that you don't have to be a pig like the others on board.

I urge all fishermen to boycott the last two types of boats and stick to the ones who care about our marine resources as much as you and I do! Let's all chip in and start cleaning up before it's too late! **Ken Stebn, Garden City, NY**

Night Fluke

In reference to the letter in Chum Lines by Mr. Zattoni and Mr. Giaimo pertaining to nightime fluke fishing.

Fluke can be caught at night if the fisherman can find a spot where there is plenty of artificial lighting. In one of my articles on fluke fishing (Vol. 9, No. 16, 1974) I mention the success I have had doing just this. You can get a copy of this article by checking page 3 of your LIF for information on requesting back copies.

Hope this info will help. **Matt Ahern**

CLUB NEWS

Trout Unlimited

The Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its next meeting on the 3rd Thursday of October at 8 P.M., at St. Martin of Tours Church, Bethpage. Trout Unlimited is presently involved in stream improvement work on the Nisseguogue River in Smithtown. Keep up the good work, fellows.

News Releases

Oyster Festival

October has been proclaimed OYSTER MONTH by the Officials of the Village of Greenport and the Town of Southold. Unique plans have been prepared for the Annual Oyster Festival and Craft Show Saturday, October 11th, rain or shine, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the American Legion Hall, Greenport, NY (near the L.I. Railroad station) sponsored and paid for by the Greenport-Southold Chamber of Commerce.

Ample parking areas, marked by directional signs, are provided through the co-operation of private owners and Elected officials, all within easy walking distance of the Festival.

A truly wonderful, enjoyable and educational Holiday for every member of the family is in store. A modest admission, adults $2.00 and children $1.00 includes free clam tasting, oyster shucking before your eyes of the oysters that you will be tasting, refreshments, souvenirs, plus a guided tour of the Long Island Oyster Farms, Inc. Oyster plant in East Marion, with bus service provided. There will be the finest of Crafts exhibited.

The Long Island Oyster Farsm, Inc. and the Shelter Island Oyster Co., Inc. will offer their gourmet delicacies of fresh, frozen and canned products. Take home a generous supply and treat your family and friends. They will love you and you will be happty that you did.

Participating local restaurants will offer a special feature of our local Luscious Long Island Oysters during the oyster month of October.

There will be over 25 prizes offered for a donation of $1.00. The donation stub may be applied for the full amount toward your Golf Green fee at the Scenic, Challenging, Championship, Par 72, Island's End Golf & Country Club, Greenport any day through November 16th. Island's End is a approved Metropolitan Golf Association golf course.

Enjoy the last long week end of this Indian Summer and you will remember it all Winter over and over again.

Free Hatteras Fishing Booklet

The experts at Cape Hatteras have put together a new booklet entitled, **Hatteras Fishing, General Information**. It is available free of charge by writing to: Fishing Information, P.O. Box 151, Buxton, N.C. 27920.

Those of you who are contemplating a trip for winter blues and bass will find that the booklet will assist you in planning and enjoying your trip.

Hunting & Fishing Fees

Governor Hugh L. Carey announced enactment of legislation providing additional money for the State's Conservation Fund through an increase in hunting, fishing and trapping license fees.

He praised members and leaders of the New York State Conservation Council, including Arthur Wager of Hyde Park, and Sherry Allen of Baldwin, for "working closely with Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid in developing this fee program and in going all out to rally legislative support for its enactment.

"This willingness on the part of hunters and fishermen to assume an additional financial burden to support programs they love is a tradition in this country and particularly so in New York State," the Governor added.

The adjustment in license fees will provide some $3-million in new funds for fish and wildlife propagation programs.

Boating Safety Course

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a free eight-lesson course in boating safety and seamanship starting on Thursday, October 9, at Wood Park School, New Highway, Commack, from 7:45 P.M. to 9:45 P.M.

Subjects will include sailors' language, boat handling, legal requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigation, Marine Engines and Marlinspike Seamanship. A certificate of completion will be awarded for successful completion of the final examination. Skippers are urged to bring their families. For further information call 757-3063.

Boating Course

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16, Copiague—Amityville area is offering a 12 lesson "Safe Boating and Seamanship" course. Anyone can take advantage of this free course by registering October 14, 1975 at 7:30 P.M. at the Copaigue High School, 1100 Dixon Avenue, Copaigue NY.

EDITORIAL

Seacoast Products, a major mossbunker harvester on the eastcoast, has appealed the two year-old Pisani-Mannix Law which prohibited commercial menhaden fishing in western Long Island Sound.

While the matter is pending before the Appellate Division, we would like to remind our legal overseers in the courts of the results of the law for the past 2 years.

Laws are designed to eliminate anarchy and chaos in society by forcing the subjection of the hostile and illegal designs of some people to the will and good of society.

Has the Pisani-Mannix Law met this criteria? We think so! The violence and social conflict between sportfishermen and bunker boats that characterized the pre-law has disappeared. The oily, smelly, and sometimes unsanitary harbor conditions that were at times coincidental with harvesting in the harbors or too close to the shore have also vanished. Inspite of the restrictions, furthermore, commercial harvesting has continued in mid-sound and with the help of sophisticated electronic equipment and aircraft spotters the hauls should be adequate. Indeed, under the law the days of easy "pickin's" are over, but those huge harbor hauls were at the expense of some pretty intense social conflict and essential ecological balance. Likewise, sportfishing with live bunker for bass and blues has also continued inshore.

So, why has Seacoast Products waited until now to appeal the law? Could it be that public opinion and the logic of the law were all too apparent when it was passed? Do they feel that the laws can be manipulated in the interest of Seacoast Products now that time has etched the memory of filth, violence, and conflict from the minds of our citizens?

It is disturbing that although sportsmen have not gone out of their way to come in conflict with the commercial operators, on several occasions the commercial boats have been caught well inside the buoy line that marks the inside limit of the harvesting and were fined according to the measure of the law. We believe that the willingness of the commercial operators to disregard the law demonstrates that perhaps the source of the original violence and conflict was the bunker boats and not the sportfishermen who at times found themselves surrounded by large nets, rammed, ignored in "safe" harbors, and threatened with weapons.

The laws cannot and should not be manipulated for the benefit of big-business. The laws must serve the purposes of society. We at The Fisherman urge the courts to uphold this legislation which has proved to be both positive and effective.

William A. Fuller

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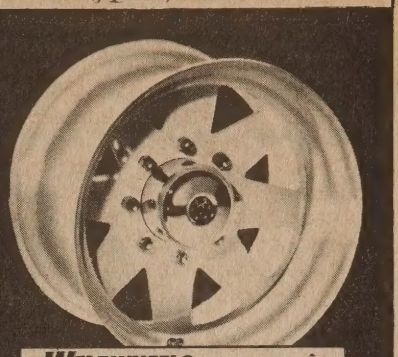

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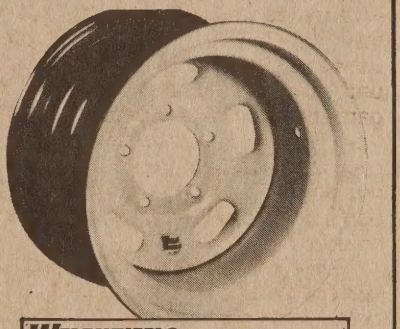

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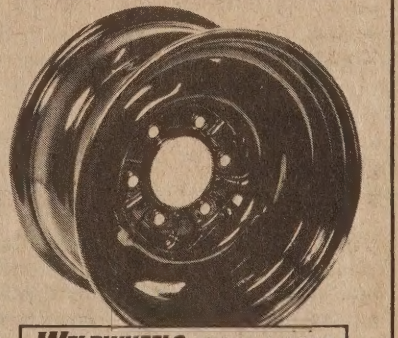

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Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

Mackerel Recipes from the Marines

Mackerel Recipes from the Marines

Do you know something? It's very nice writing a column such as this. One of the main reasons for this statement is the lovely co-operation I receive from some of our readers. I've just received a lovely note from Jean and Tom Curran of Brooklyn, New York. It was hand-written by Jean and in it she says that every year she and her husband give a "fish fry" for twenty-five adults and about as many children. She goes on to say that when her husband Tom went into the Marines he requested that he be placed in "Electronics". As it seems to be the usual procedure in such circumstances to assign the recruit to a field other than that desired, Tom was given the job of cook. The followig are some of his mackerel recipes.

Mackerel Salad

2 Boston Mackerel—boiled
½ large head of lettuce—shredded
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped celery
Lemon Juice
Salad Oil
Salt and Pepper

Boil the two mackerel and after cooling remove only the white meat from the bones. Discard the rest. Add the shredded lettuce, celery and onion and then refrigerate until cold. Just before serving add the lemon juice and oil to taste plus the salt and pepper. (This should serve six people).

Mackerel Fish Cakes

1 large mackerel
1 cup instant potatoes
salt and pepper
1 tablespoon of dry English mustard
½ cup grated onion
egg white

Boil the mackerel and after cooling remove only the white meat which you should shred into flakes. Make instant potatoes using only ¾ cup of water. Add the dry mustard and onion to the potato and mix well. Then add the shredded mackerel. Shape the result into egg shaped cakes and brush with egg white. Place the cakes on a greased pan in a 350 degree oven. Turn them once. Serve them hot. (This recipe takes care of six adults—unless they are all gluttens.) Gourmet's Note: This recipe sounds down right delectable. The idea of using hot mustard and onions makes it so different from the usual fish cake recipe.

Mackerel Spaghetti Sauce

4 mackerel (save the stock)
3 eight ounce cans tomato sauce
1 large onion—chopped
2 green peppers—chopped
Dash of red Italian pepper
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon oregano
1 stalk celery—chopped

When boiling the mackerel use only enough water to cover the fish and when done, reserve two cups of the stock. Remove the white meat from the bones and shred into medium sized chunks. Refrigerate until the sauce is prepared.

The Sauce

Add the three cans of tomato sauce to the fish stock. Cook over low heat. Saute onions, peppers and celery (all chopped) in bacon fat or a light oil. Drain and add to sauce. Add the red pepper, salt and oregano. Cook for one half an hour to blend the flavors. Add the shredded mackerel and heat until the fish is warmed. Do not boil. Serve over cooked spaghetti. (This recipe also serves six.)

Thank you!
Jean and Tom Curran.

Porgies or Scup

Ralph Buddie of Amityville and myself have just returned from our usual annual trek to Martha's Vineyard. In former years we were most fortunate in catching lots of blues and some stripers. In the week that we were there however, the supply of bait (usually present in enormous schools) was very sparse and as a result so were the blues.

This was the week of the rain and the hurricanes. We caught a few blues and on Sunday, September 21st, Ralph cast a whole dead mackerel into the middle of the Menemsha Inlet during slack water. It wasn't long before his surf rod, the butt wedged between some rocks, bent over in that beautiful arc enjoyed by all fishermen. Sure enough, he had himself a nice 15 pound bass.

When fishing the Vineyard we sometimes resort to bait fishing using fresh mackerel we catch at Menemsha. Some of our blues were caught in this manner but what we got too much of were bites from porgies or as they call them in New England "Scup". They were everywhere and at one period we loaded up on good sized ones.

Porgies are really delicious to eat and fun to catch. Around Long Island and the Vineyard they go to about three or four pounds. (Off Bermuda's shores however, they range up to an almost unbelievable twenty five or thirty pounds and it's some fight that they give you!)

I think porgies are marvellous eating. I like to fillet them and remove the skin. Most recipes for these fish call for cooking them after being scaled and gutted. Not caring to eat fish with the bone problem, I recommend the fillets. The simplest way to cook them is to pan fry them in butter and serve with lemon juice. You can also soak each fillet in beaten eggs and then cover with bread crumbs and fry the result.

One of the most tasty lunches I have had was on the beach at Cape Poge Gut (part of the Vineyard) when we fried these porgy fillets and made sandwiches of them.

Take about a pound of fillets, one 10½ ounce can of cheese soup, ¼ cup mile, two tablespoons chili sauce and a dash of Worcestershire. Mix the soup with the milk and the sauces and pour over the filletsin a buttered baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for thirty minutes. This serves two with big appetites or four normal people.

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Surf Side
with Doc Muller

BLACKFISH
Part One

The blackfish is one of the staple bottom species in Long Island waters. The species is most often caught in the spring and in the fall in shoal water and the best surf fishing for them occurs in May and then again in October.

Most good surf fishermen spend a lot of time getting to know the species that they seek and perhaps when blackfish are the quarry the homework should be even a little more intense. I think that most fishermen have the wrong idea about blackfish. Many think that they are sluggish bottom feeders, but this is not so.

The blackfish, *Tautoga onitis*, is a member of the wrasse family of fishes that includes many thick lipped brightly colored reef fishes of the tropics.

The wrasses inhabit reefs, rocks, and wrecks, so their skin is tough and produces copious amounts of mucus which serves as a buffer against sharp rock edges, diseases, and bottom debris.

The unique "personality" of the blackfish can only be appreciated when you see them in their natural habitat or observe them in an aquarium. Blacks are shy and cautious and they prefer to make contact with various bottom objects. When they are not feeding they will wedge themselves into tight spaces even if it means that they must lie parallel to the bottom. I have seen them make a home out of cinder blocks, pots, plastic bottles, lobster pots, large shells, tackle boxes, and beer cans.

Blackfish are usually found in the same waters as striped bass and their cautious behavior seems to reflect a healthy respect for bass which, of course, have been known to eagerly gobble up a delectable blackfish dinner.

Their quiet rest periods are not an indication of listless feeding behavior however. When they eat they will move from rock to rock searching for crabs, barnacles, clams, mussels, worms, or anything else that thay can catch. During a visit to the Marine Research Laboratory at Old Field Point a few years ago, I talked with Phillip Briggs, a well known fisheries biologist, who has studied blackfish for some time.

He gave me a demonstration that awakened me to many of my prejudices about fish. He directed me towards a large aquarium that contained several medium sized blackfish quietly resting in some building blocks.

"What do blackfish eat?" Briggs questioned. What a silly question I thought to myself, but I answered anyway. "Crabs, barnacles, clams," I thought better of my answer, paused and then began again, "various crustaceans, mollusks, worms..."

I was interrupted by Briggs who reached for a small dip net and rounded up several good sized killies from a nearby tank and with the same motion emptied the net into the blackfish tank.

Suddenly, the blacks came charging from their crevaces. They hit the killies from all direction sending sprays of scales in their vicious attacks. Within seconds the killies were gone, the blacks returned to their perches in the blocks, and I stood with my mouth hanging in momentary shock. Wow!

This experience charged me up and by the end of the week I was casting killies from a Mattituck beach in the belief that I would catch a mess of big blacks. Save your killies for fluke friends---it didn't work. The explanation is quite simple. Sure blacks will eat killies in the laboratory when the are fed little else and I am equally sure that they'll chase baitfish right out of the water if their normal staples become scarce. But different species of fish have distinct food preferences and if the blackfish have their drothers, they will take the types of foods for which tens of thousands of years of evolution have prepared them.

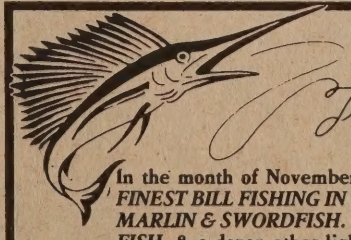
Those thick lips and human-like broad hard teeth are better suited to cracking crabs and barnacles then they are to chopping up baitfish, and the thick muscular body is not streamlined for chasing fishes over the expanses of surface waters.

The old adage about matching the hatch is still valid and the old regulars' advice that we should learn as much about a fish's habits and habitats as we can is also still sound council. But the new fangled ideas that preach to us about the individualities of fishes and their complex ecology and behavior must also find a place in our memory books and in that part of our nervous systems that is receptive to new ideas.

So much for seasons and ecology. It is perhaps more important for surf fishermen to know where to fish. Again I must direct you to Long Island Sound. All of those boulders, rocks, and mussel beds are ideal places for blacks to feed and rest and these habitats are loaded with every kind of invertebrate bait from worms to calico crabs.

Any rocky area from City Island to Orient Point holds lots of blacks and in the fall the sizes can be impressive too. Fish that push toward 10 pounds and beyond, although not an everyday event, are not that uncommon either. Like any other quarry that the surf fishermen seeks there are numerous little tricks that increase productivity and hence add pleasure and satisfaction to the sport. The rest is up to the fisherman.

Next week I discuss tides, baits, rigs and presentation of baits.



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CROSSING THE BAR with Don Vetter

WINTER STORAGE
Part One

One of the nicest times of the year to be out on the water is the late fall: the air is clear, frosty and invigorating. Flights of migrating waterfowl whistle through the autumn skies and the boatman who sticks at it late in the year often finds he has the waterways almost to himself as he gets in his final licks at striped bass or flounder or cod. However persistant one may be, there comes a time when calling it a season is necessary and the boatman must bow to the inevitable by preparing his craft for the winter layover.

The first item to receive attention should be the engine, be it inboard, outboard or I/O. The manual which came with your motor is the best quide to proper procedure for laying up a motor that is to be out of service for any protracted period of time, though a few general guidelines are in order. If the outboard was last used in salt water, it is a good idea to flush the cooling system by running the motor in fresh water before laying it up for the off season. With the motor running, inject rust preventive oil rapidly into the carburetor air intakes until the motor stops; this will serve to inhibit corrosion in the combustion chambers and internal parts.

If the outboard is to be removed from the boat, care must be excercised to prevent tilting the motor at too great an angle lest water from the cooling system gain access to the head via the exhaust manifolds and cause rusting. The motor should be stored in an upright position if removed from the boat, and in a dry place. All water should be drained from the water pump and cooling system by rotating the flywheel several times with the throttle retarded and the spark plug leads removed. Clean the fuel and filter and inspect the carburetor; if it shows signs of dirt or varnish, clean it as well. Drain all fuel from the tanks; it is foolish economy to start the new season with old gasoline even in this age of high fuel prices. Pour the old gas into the family car to avoid wastage as the oil in the mixture will do your car engine no harm. Remove the propeller and check it for chipped or bent blades and have the wheel reconditioned if necessary as even slight defects can have a great effect on performance. Drain the gearcase and refill with the recommended viscosity hypoid gear oil. Clean the entire outside of the motor and give it a coat of automotive wax.

The procedure of winterizing differs slightly in the case of inboard engines. All inboards and most inboard/outdrive motors are of four cycle design rather than the two cycle typical of outboards. These engines rely on crank case oil rather than a gas/oil mixture for internal lubrication. There are two types of cooling system employed with inboards: the conventional system draws cooling water through external intakes as does the outboard, while the closed-cycle or fresh-water cooled engine relys on coolant circulated through a series of tubes in contact with the surrounding water outside the hull. A general guide line for inboard winterizing would be as follows: First clean the motor thoroughly with a good grade commercial de-gunker, then drain the crankcase oil and replace with the recommended viscosity motor oil.

The next step is to clean or replace all filters: gasoline, diesel fuel, oil and air, and thoroughly cleaning the carburetor or have it cleaned for you. Drain all fuel from the tanks and the entire system, or you will have shellac gumming up everything next spring. Drain all water from your conventional cooling system or check the anti-freeze level in your fresh-water cooled engine. Remove the battery and lubricate the cylinder heads and all internal parts; spray all electrical connections with an anticorrosion solution. Cover the engine to protect it from the weather.

Most craft require protection from the elements when stored in the winter months; particularly against the possibility of rain or snow accumulating in the bilges and alternately freezing and thawing throughout the off-season. Wooden hulls in particular must be protected against ground organisims, dry rot and exposure to the weather. Fiberglass and metal hulls require little attention besides a thorough cleaning and a coating of wax, though a good winter cover will certainly do them no harm and is definitely in order if they are to be stored outdoors. Wood hulls should be supported evenly throughout their length so there is no excessive strain at any particular point.

You can protect your craft from damage caused by precipitation and the elements in general by means of a winter cover made of good grade canvas. Fitted covers made to order are quite expensive, but many boats are small enough to use a stock size tarpaulin. Plastic covers will not do as the first moderately strong wind will tear them to shreds. To keep the tarpaulin from laying flat on the cabin top or deck, build a light framework out of lath to serve as a ridge pole. If you store your boat in your own backyard where you can inspect it regularly, you can even use roofing paper over the lath frame as an acceptable protection against the elements.

All wooden boats are subject to dry rot, caused in a large measure through lack of proper ventilation. For this reason, the tarpaulin should not be wrapped tightly around the hull, but rather it should be draped so that it hangs straight down from the rail to the waterline. The edges of the tarpaulin can be anchored to the cradle directly below, as further protection against dry rot, floorboards hatches and bunk tops should be taken up and all lockers opened. If your craft has a cabin, cabin windows and portlights should be left open slightly and the cabin door left ajar. Sealing the hull up tightly for the winter is a cordial invitation to dry rot.

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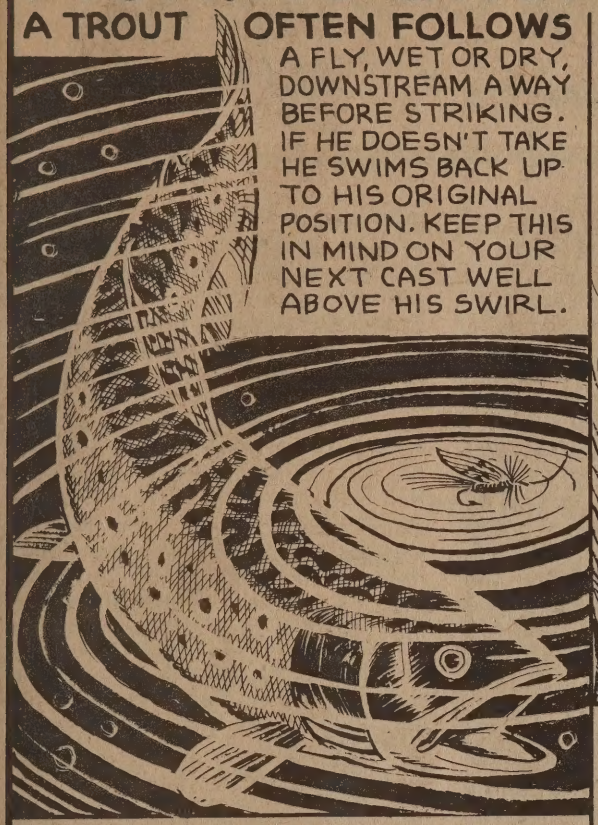
FISHING & HUNTING TIPS

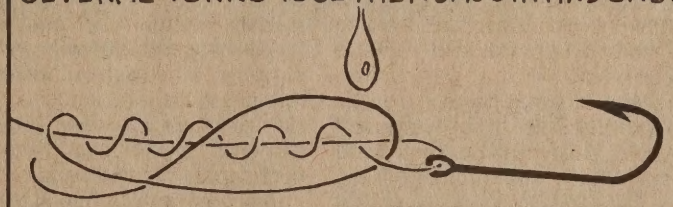
BY FRED GUARDINEER

A TROUT OFTEN FOLLOWS A FLY, WET OR DRY, DOWNSTREAM A WAY BEFORE STRIKING. IF HE DOESN'T TAKE HE SWIMS BACK UP TO HIS ORIGINAL POSITION. KEEP THIS IN MIND ON YOUR NEXT CAST WELL ABOVE HIS SWIRL.



RIFLED SHOTGUN SLUGS ARE EXCELLENT FOR DEER HUNTING IN WOODED AREAS AT 75 YD. RANGES. THEIR USE WILL NOT DAMAGE CHOKES IN MODIFIED OR FULL CHOKE BARRELS. AT 75 YDS. A 12 GAUGE 1 OZ. SLUG HAS A VELOCITY OF 1040 FPS AND A MID RANGE TRAJECTORY OF 1.5 INCHES.

WHEN TYING MONOFILAMENT KNOTS, MOISTEN THE TURNS WITH SALIVA BEFORE PULLING TIGHT. THIS PROVIDES A LITTLE LUBRICATION THAT HELPS TO DRAW THE SEVERAL TURNS TOGETHER SMOOTH AND SNUG.



BIRD HUNTERS USUALLY USE SMALL SHOT DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE SEASON, THEN SWITCH TO LARGER SHOT AS THE COVER THINS AND BIRDS START FLUSHING FARTHER FROM THE GUN. IN THE CASE OF PHEASANTS, START WITH NO. 7½ SHOT AND THEN CHANGE TO NO. 6'S.

A COMMON SPIN-FISHING MISTAKE IS TO TRY TO REEL IN LINE WHILE A FISH IS TAKING IT OUT. THIS TWISTS THE LINE BADLY. LET THE FISH RUN AGAINST THE DRAG AND RETRIEVE ONLY WHEN IT STOPS OR YOU CAN PUMP IT IN.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Fall Run of Flounder

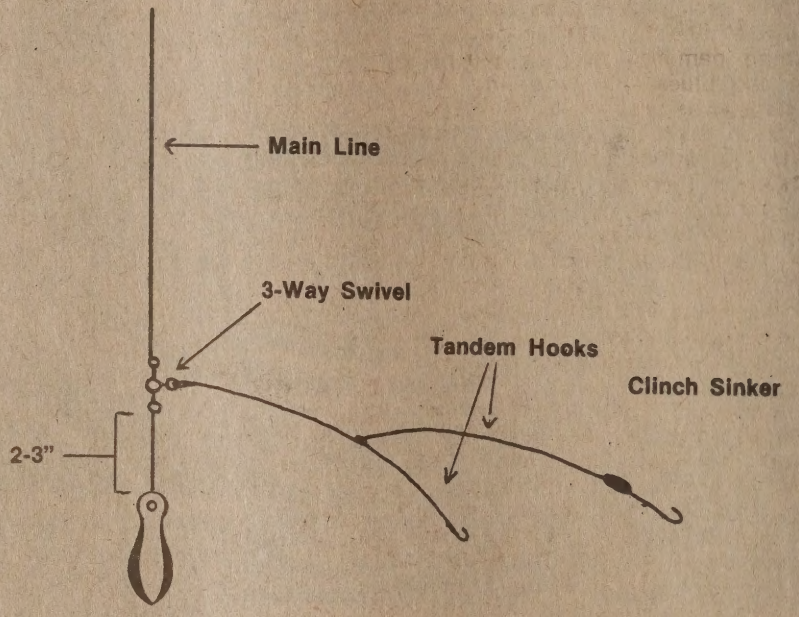
Well, it hardly seems possible, but the bulk of this year's fishing season has already passed and its time to break out the flounder outfits again. The flatfish are already off to a good start in Shinnecock and Moriches Bay and it will only be a matter of days before they wake up in Great South Bay and along the North Shore. Flounder fishing will provide plenty of action from now well into December, when the codfish will step into the limelight and hold it until the spring flounder run begins in March.

There are several differences between the spring and fall runs of flounder. While the fall may lack the quantity of the spring run, it more than compensates for this shortening in the quality of the fish taken. Fat, juicy, filleting size flounder of a pound or more are the rule rather than the exception. I also believe that there is a marked difference in the attitude of many anglers. Whereas in the spring many fishermen are happy just to have something live wiggling on the end of a line after a long, idle winter, in the fall the "meat fisherman" syndrome is more evident. What better table fare to fill the freezer with to last the winter than fillet of flounder?

Fall flounder fishing can also provide more excitement than the spring run because of the mixed bags that are often taken. Seabass, kingfish, blowfish, blackfish, sand porgy—even an occasional striped bass. You just don't know what's going to grab a worm in October or November! But in the early part of the spring run, 99 out of 100 fish taken will be flounder. This will certainly fill up the fish box fast enough, but can become a little monotonous for even the most ardent of flounder fans.

Flounder usually aren't such finnicky feeders in the fall, making the anglers job of hooking fish somewhat easier. Whereas the spring flounder will often just half-heartedly nibble or suck on the bait, their fall brethren are more likely to pounce on it. I'm sure that there is a good reason for this behavior, but I don't know what it is.

Chumming isn't as absolutely essential to a decent catch in the fall as it is so many times in the spring. This is fortunate, because preferred chum like bank mussels usually aren't too readily available for purchase in the fall. But an attempt at chumming in some form should be made even though it will increase the cost of a fishing trip. Cracked mussels, frozen clam bellies, or even canned dog and catfood can be put in a chumpot or weighted onion bag and lowered to the bottom. Cracked mussels, kernals of corn or rice can be liberally scattered around the boat to attract flounder from a distance.



The preferred flounder baits are bloodworms, sandworms, mussels and clams but not necessarily in that order. For reasons unknown, bloodworms are preferred by the south shore flounder fisherman while on the north shore anglers lean heavily towards the sandworm. Worms are undoubtably the best all around flounder bait, but they are also the most expensive. Mussel or clam baits are a little more difficult to keep on the hook, but as a rule will take a larger percentage of big fish. Use whatever is available, but try to have one of each (worm of shellfish) so that you may offer the fish a choice to see if they show a preference.

Tackle. What can you say—the lighter the better. While it is very easy to go too heavy in the tackle department for flounder, it is virtually impossible to fish too light. An ultra-light spinning rod and reel or baitcasting outfit loaded with 4 or 6 lb. test monofilament will more than do the job. So use the lightest outfit you have at your disposal. There isn't any need to change good monofilament line that is on the heavy side for a few weeks of flounder fishing. Just add about fifty feet of light mono right on top of the heavier stuff.

Rigging up for flounder is very simple, as you can see by the diagram. The important thing to keep in mind is that the bait MUST be on the bottom. Unlike the fluke, a flounder will rarely leave the bottom in pursuit of a tiny morsel of food. The hook and size of the bait should also be in proportion to the small mouth of the flounder. Use number 9 or 10 long-shanked Chestertown hooks—the long-shank is necessary to remove a hook that is embedded deep in a fish's throat.

Use the lightest weight bank sinker that will hold bottom. Many anglers have taken to painting their sinkers bright colors on the theory that it will attract the curious flounder. This is a good idea, particularly in the fall when the flounder are much more active than the spring. In the spring, SOP is to fish a bait on the bottom with no movement, but in the fall the best bet is give the bait a little action. Jig the rig 4 or 5 times a few inches off the bottom with the rod tip, then pause for about 10 seconds and repeat. This will often attract a foraging flounder from a distance to your baited hooks. Give both techniques a try and see which one the flounder prefer.

Fall Bass Love Bucktails

by Terry Wallace

It has been proven time and time again that one of the oldest ways of catching gamefish such as striped bass and blues with wire line and bucktails is as productive today as it has ever been in the past. This practice called by some experts as "lurking and jerking", is still widely used by sharpies who specialize in fishing rips and other areas where they know these gamefish can be found. In fact, at areas such as Montauk Point, this method cannot be beaten when the bass and blues are feeding on smaller fish such as sand porgies.

It wasn't until about a year ago that I tried this method of fishing with my partner Dick Guarelia. It was on an early fall morning that Dick and I trailered his twenty foot outboard rig east toward Montauk Point. We had heard that the fall fishing for stripers was excellent and that the favorite method of charter captains at the time was wire lining bucktails, so we decided to give it a whirl ourselves.

By six o'clock that morning we had launched the "Think Big" from the launching ramp on Westlake Drive and were on our way out to Pollack Rip where we heard the action was for the wireline trollers.

As I headed the boat toward Pollack Rip, Dick readied the rods for action. For wire lining bucktails we prefer medium action to heavy action rods of about six feet. Almost any make of rod will do that has carboloid guides. These guides are made to handle wireline and won't be ruined or grooved by the wire. These rods should be matched with either 3/0 or 4/0 reels, although a lot of fishermen use Penn Mariners, which are made for this type fishing. After you have your rod and reel selected you must have the proper wire line and know how to rig it. Before the wire line goes on the reel back the spool with approximately 50 yards of 50 pound test Dacron. This dacron will not only give the wire live a good backing but will make it easier to get the wire on your reel properly. After putting the dacron on your reel it is time to put the wire on. The most important aspect of putting the wire on the reel is measuring the length before it goes on the reel. At an area such as Montauk

Dick Guarelia jigs with wireline and bucktail from his outboard the "Think Big".

300 feet of wire is plenty for most spots where fish congregate. It is important to measure off and mark every 50 feet and 100 feet lengths with a different color tape or nailpolish. This way you will be able to tell how many feet of wire you are fishing. After measuring and marking your wire attach the dacron and wire. After you have the wire on your reel add a twelve foot monofilament leader attached with a barrel swivel of fifty pound test, add the bucktail and you're set to go.

By this time Dick had all of the rods rigged and ready to fish I had swung the "Think Big" around behind the rip, Dick let out the 300 feet of wire which you need at Pollack Rip and began jigging. Dick jigged the bucktail in a smooth but quick manner as is needed. Jigging should not be done erratically but should be done with short but quick strokes. It is these strokes or jigs which make the bucktail skip along where stripers and blues are waiting for passing baitfish.

As I continued to run the boat across the rip, on the third pass, Dick's rod came to life and our first battle of the day had been staged. Dick held the rod high and gained line from the fish as I continued to troll the boat. It is important at this time to mention that you must put constant steady pressure on the fish rather than pumping and horsing the fish in. Many times this will enable the hook to loosen up in the fish's mouth and the result will be a lost fish.

As Dick gained back all of the wire line, I grabbed the mono leader and stuck the gaff to a nice teen sized bass. We continued this same procedure in the general area where we landed our first fish. At times when fishing slowed down we added a piece of porkrind and action began to pick up, when the action died with the porkrind, we added a different colored bucktail until we found out what the fish wanted.

After a half days fishing Dick and I decided to call it a day. As Dick steered the "Think Big" back into Montauk Inlet, I gazed back at the thirty one bass and blues which fell for the bucktails and thought to myself, "next year we'll have to try this again a couple of times."

Blackfish at Shinnecock

by Gerald & David Hahn

When my father and I arrived at Shinnecock Inlet, we had already been fishing a whole day and the night before with no luck at all. At the time my only interest was catching bluefish since I had caught my first one, a 3½ pounder off of some bunker. When we reached the end of the jetty we saw 2 men fishing. They were fishing for blackfish. I was not really interested at first until I saw how many they had. They were pulling them out of the water as fast as they could get their bait on their hooks. Suddenly I wanted to catch blackfish. One of the two men gave us a handful of fiddlers and my father and I got started. We pulled in a few until I got a tremendous hit and pulled in the biggest fish of the day, a 4 pounder. The others ranged in size from ¾ to 3½ pounds. They hit hard and it's fun trying to yank them out of the rocks. They also taste very good.

As my son David, age 13, just described to you, that's the scene at Shinnecock Inlet, right now, as the blackfish are beginning to move in. The blackfish season seemed to have been heralded in, here, on that day at the beginning of September, by a Scandanavian and an Oriental. A lot of people who fish are funny types. For example, they would rather throw their arms out for hours in the hope of catching a 2 pound bluefish when they can be pulling in 3 and 4 lb. blackfish by the score. Not my son and I; we're curious about each and every species of fish available.

Those two people knew exactly what they were doing. Somehow, they knew that blackfish would be at the inlet at this time. They came prepared with waders, rubbers with cleats, bait-holder boxes attached around their necks, and a bucket of fiddler crabs. Working together, they must have pulled in around 50 blackfish. The Oriental put his on a stringer while the Scandanavian stuffed his into a wetted-down army sack. The pluggers and other baitcasters stood there, gaping, open mouthed, as fish after fish came flying onto the jetty. Mixed in with the blackfish were seabass and several triggerfish, a species usually found in warmer waters. These are edible, as well. These two fishermen were real pros. Despite this bonanza, even now, only a handful of people are fishing for blacks at the jetty.

O.K. I also love the song and dance that a blue can perform, especially when caught on a lure. It takes off on fantastic runs, stands on its tail, and can bite your finger off. A blackfish doesn't do that; it just hits, without fanfare, like a brick. Try pulling even a small one out of the rocks and you will see what I mean.

The rig at Shinnecock is simple; one or two (in tandem) no. 3 or 4 blackfish hooks; you can snell these yourself using Virginia hooks on 12" leaders. A 3 or 4 oz. bank sinker on a fish finder rig with a barrel swivel to keep the sinker from smacking the blackfish in the face completes the rig. Bring plenty of rigs along because you will certainly snag some in the rocks.

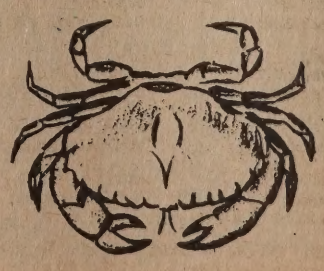
The bait that was producing strikes was fiddler crabs and that's a problem at Shinnecock at present, because none of the bait shops in the immediate area are selling them. They should have them by the time this article appears. Skimmers can also be used but, in the meantime, I have been picking fiddlers up in Moriches on Rte. 27A. If you have never baited a fiddler crab, have no fear because they are easier to handle then a sandworm. The carapace is only about as big as your thumbnail and it's not necessary to break off the large "fiddler" claw of the males. Hook the crab through the joint of either one of the large, front claws and out the other or back of the carapace but do not expose the barb or point of the hook. This will keep the bait set firmly on the hook and alive and wriggling.

The rod should be either a surf rod or a stout, 6' boat rod. A good sized reel (conventional or spinning) is in order as well, for assisting you in yanking the fish out of the rocks. Before you start to write in complaints about this, I must tell you that the function of the reel, here, is entirely different from catching blues or even blackfish from a boat. A larger reel is necessary when casting for blues from a jetty both to get the lure or bait way out and to prevent being stripped of line on a long run. In blackfishing from a jetty, you must cast only a few feet away. Consequently, there is little slack created in the line and you, literally have to work both rod and reel simultaneously against the fish as it heads into the rocks and tries to break you off. When you get a hit, you will first detect a couple of taps and as you lift up the rod, the fish will slam downward, HARD. Give it no quarter or you will lose it.

A net is not necessary but have something available nearby. A stringer, sack, or large bucket to put the fish in. Most fish are lost at the point, while you scramble up the rocks trying to figure out where to put it. If you own a pair of rubbers with cleats, bring them along because it is best to fish from the lower rocks which are slippery; you maintain better control from a short distance.

I have found that it is best to fish before and after low tide at Shinnecock. The best spots seem to be at the southern end of the jetty, near the half submerged concreate block. You can fish towards the ocean side or inlet side.

As the water temperature lowers to around 65 degrees, more and consistently larger blackfish will move into the inlet. Although blackfish, also known as tautog, are not sold readily at fish stores these days, they are incredible eating. My son is only beginning to develop a taste for fish; thus far, his favorite has been blackfish fillets, cooked Chinese style. When you gut one, a sweet candy-like aroma is evident. This must be due to the crabs and mussels on which the blackfish feed. I've heard about the scent of melons that can be detected when blues are in the vicinity but whenever I gut one, all I can smell is bunker. So, as you're scanning the water from this jetty in search for surfacing baitfish and blues, you might glance down at the water near your feet; some big and tasty surprises await you there.



The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman is holding a contest where our readers can win a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the 45 convenient locations listed below and pick up an L.I.F. litter box for the rear window of his car. Each week the license plate number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, just call *The Fisherman* by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received by the deadline, the cash prize will accumulate.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

527-NPJ

Pick Up Your Litter Box At One Of These Locations

MONTAUK
Grady Marine
Tumas Tackle

OZONE PARK
Channel Rod & Gun Shop
Marino's Tackle

BALDWIN
Baldwin Marine Supply

ISLAND PARK
Ralphs Tackle & Sporting
K & K Outboards, Inc.
Commodore Fishing Station

POINT LOOKOUT
Ed's Fishing Station

BAYSHORE
Mainland Marine

FARMINGDALE
Mike's Fishing Tackle

EAST ISLIP
Starfish Marine
Wet-A-Line

GREENLAWN
Greenlawn Sports

HUNTINGTON STATION
Four Winds Tackle
Ronnie's Bait and Tackle

ISLIP
Islip Marine Center

MILLER PLACE
Dick's Sporting Goods
Queensland Cove Tackle

PORT JEFFERSON STATION
Port Jefferson Sport Shop

PORT JEFFERSON
Caraftis & Sons Boat Station

ROCKY POINT
Bob's Lockeroom

MOUNT SINAI
Ralph's Fishing Station

LONG BEACH
Long Beach Sports

LINDENHURST
Charlie's Bait & Tackle
Charlie's West Tackle
Duke's Tackle Shop

COPAIGUE
S.T.P.A Copaigue

AMITYVILLE
George Combs Tackle
Jonas Bait & Tackle
Sportackular

SEAFORD
Lon Wanser Tackle
Eastern Reel Service

WANTAGH
Causeway Bait & Tackle

BELLMORE
Kwak's Tackle
Merrick Marine Supply

AQUEBOGUE
Warren's Tackle Center

MATTITUCK
North Fork Market

FREEPORT
Al Grover's
Charvin Marine
Grove & Atlantic Beer
Schultz Sporting Goods
Sea Isle Sports
Mako Marina
Anthony's Fishing Station
Dockside Diner
Hudson Point Marina

HAMPTON BAYS
Skidmore's Sport Shop
Three Aces Fishing Center
Bradley's Fishing Station

CENTEREACH
Plaza Sports

S. JAMESPORT
Jamesport Fisherman Haven

SOUTHOLD
Port of Egypt

GREENPORT
Art White's Bait Shop

LYNBROOK
Beckman's Tackle

DEER PARK
A & B Sporting Goods

EAST NORTHPORT
Larkfield Sports Center
S.T.P.A Elwood
The Great Outdoors

COMMACK
R & R Sporting Goods
Commack Sports Center

SMITHTOWN
Smithtown Sports

HOWARD BEACH
Crossbay Rod & Gun
Noehren's Bait & Tackle

MANHATTAN
John Baumann's
Capitol Fishing Tackle
Robbins Rod & Reel

BROOKLYN
Bernies Bait & Tackle
Mike's Tackle
Stella Maris
Ted's Tackle

CAPTREE
Captree Bait Station

BABYLON
Hi-Hook Fishing Station
Augie's Bait & Tackle
Babylon Fishing Station
Babylon Sports Center
Babylon Yacht Marina

OAK BEACH
The Store

CITY ISLAND
Jack's Bait & Tackle

FLUSHING
B & B Sporting Goods
Aqua Pet Sports Center
Empire Sports

MORICHES
Moriches Bait & Tackle

CENTER MORICHES
Dicks Tackle Box
B&B Tackle & Sports

Weekly winners of the L.I.F Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK
Viking Star
Peconic Queen II
Marlin III

CAPTREE
Speedy V
Capt. Ben Litwin
Capt. Joseph Fleet

FREEPORT
Starstream II
Aloma II

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
Amberjack IV
Cheif

NORTH SHORE
Port Jeff Ace
Betty W

Montauk, the Full Moon and Striped Bass

by Ron Onorato

I must say one thing about Montauk Point; when it rains, it pours. This not only goes for the weather but for the fishing. Here it was, the beginning of the second week of October, the eve of the full moon, prime bass time according to the experts. Somewhere along the line someone forgot to tell the bass that. For George Oliver and myself, this bass trip had turned into a bluefishing expedition.

All the rips, and much of the Southside of the Point held nothing but bluefish, bluefish and more bluefish. Nothing really wrong with that, except when you're looking for bass, the alligators are not really welcomed. Plenty of bait throughout the entire area should have drawn the bass, but it didn't. The week before, a Northeast storm blew for 4 days with 40 degrees temperatures, so everything looked good for the following week.

Going bassless is bad, but going bassless in lousy weather is even worse. We had planned on staying a full week at the Point, but the first two days almost shortened the trip. The first day would be more or less a scouting trip to see when, where, and how the regulars were fishing. The Southeast breeze made for a most unpleasant morning's fishing. Coupled with the ebb, the rips were very sloppy.

The charters were trolling Pollack Rip with umbrellas and doing handily with nice size blues and a few small stripers. Our own efforts were rewarded by a load of big blues and two rat stripers. By 11:00 that morning, the wind had intensified to the point that fishing was just not enjoyable. It was just as well, because we planned to fish that night any way.

After a couple of hours sleep, we were off again. It was around 5 and the wind had let down a bit. The flood tide had reached the seas quite a bit. More importantly, the sky was pretty clear, and the moon loomed over us like a spotlight. I felt better already.

The first stop was the Elbow. Since there was still some light, we trolled bucktails and porkrind. In no time, the blues found them. The blues stayed with the jigs right up until dusk, and then gradually tapered off. Now for some bass.

Two hours work at the elbow produced exactly 6 fish, all small bass around 5 pounds each. A move to the rips right under the light resulted in 2 more bass, one of which was 28 pounds. That was it for the trolling. The paper recorder marked loads of bait, but that was all.

Disgruntled, we went back to the dock around 1 A.M., and sacked out for a couple of hours. At daybreak we were ready for another stab at the fish. The sky was clear, and the wind was calm. Giving up on the bucktails and umbrellas, I put on 2 big Danny plugs. Last spring off the Hook, we had nailed some nice fish on these plugs.

Five seconds to the first pass, a 20 pound bass grabbed the Yellow plug. This is it, I muttered to myself. Some 2 hours later, we had our second hit on the plug. At least the bluefish left the big plugs alone. Back to the dock, this time it was 10 A.M.

A good lunch and a good sleep renewed our enthusiasm. The sky was crystal clear, with a hint of a northerly breeze. The night of the full moon. This fine weather would not last too much longer, so this night was do or die. Time to break out the secret weapon. Somewhere I had heard that live eels at night are the anwer for big bass at Montauk.

The trip to the light that night was quick. There was virtually no wind. We trolled until darkness with bucktails on 175 feet of wire under the light and managed a dozen school bass along with a load of choppers. This was the first sign of any consistent bass life. Every time we looked into the pail of eels, visions of cow bass danced in our minds.

We packed in the trolling around 9 and went to the eels. In less time than it takes to scream, I had a sizzling runoff. I reared back to set the hook, and gone. A second later the fish was back again. This time, I lost everything. The frayed mono leader told the story, Alligators. George had the same problems. We put on light wire leaders, and no takers, so back to heavier mono leaders. Alligator alley. Two dozen eels gone in a couple of hours. Net result for the eels; a 21 pound bass, 2 blues and plenty of aggrevation.

The fine weather held up another day as the moon began to wane. For three day's fishing effort we have around 20 bass, mostly schoolies, and 2,000 plus bluefish. I think I caught exactly 3 bluefish all summer long up in the Sound, and now I shout epitaphs at every bluefish I saw.

The weatherman called for a change in the weather, so we figured that this might be our last chance. It was the second night of the full moon and once again the weather was clear and calm. Since our eels were gone, we had to stick to the bucktails. One thing that bothered us was the fact that the fleet of charters and locals had been conspicuously absent from Shagwong Reef the past few days, while the Elbow, Pollack Rip, and the Light got heavy action.

Shagwong had always been good to me, so it was worth a shot. We went out at dusk this time to outer Shagwong. Two umbrellas went out on 200 feet of wire as we trolled the edge of the reef. We had no customers for an hour, and for the first time, the blues laid off our rigs. We put out two long tubes and the story was the same, no life at all. Now we knew why the boats were not fishing Shagwong.

We made a run to Pollack Rip from Shagwong. The old standby, the white bucktail, went back into action. We saw occasional swirls on the surface of the rip. The fish were up and only 150 feet of wire was needed. The recorder marked lots of fish, as school bass and blues competed for the jigs. Throughout the entire ebb and into most of the flood the fish stayed up. As dawn crowded the sky, the bass fishing tapered off and only the blues would hit the jigs.

We left the rig and headed back to the dock for the last time. The boat was a mess with fish scales and blood all over the place. The tally for the evening was impressive; 27 bass from 5 to 26 pounds and an undertermined number of big blues. The time for our departure had alltogether arrived too soon. The trip was rated only as fair as Montauk standards go, but at least we

had a taste of what the good life was like.

Every October, I along with a handful of other degenerates who pass themselves off as bass fishermen, make the annual pilgrammage to Montauk Point around the period of the full moon in an effort to catch large numbers of striped bass that lurk there. Though as is the case in any type of fishing where you can bomb out, the chances for at least reasonable success are good.

If the full moon falls in the early part of October, you may be plagued with blues and few stripers. If it falls in the later part of the month, you're in business. The blues are around still, but the bass are usually more numerous.

If you're fortunate enough to get your vacation on October, plan on staying for at least 4 or 5 days. I usually get set up two nights before the full moon and stay until the third or fourth night, depending on the weather. Motels are very reasonable this time of year and there is plenty of dockage space available.

Two things that are of the utmost importance are having a good paper recorder, or at the very least a flasher fathometer, and plenty of wire line. As much as I love casting and jigging for bass, wire line trolling brings home the bacon usually, Diamond jigging and squidding works well at times, but that usually comes later.

The paper recorder is imperative because it not only marks fish, but gives you a very accurate idea of the bottom contour. I use standard wire line trolling outfits with 40 pound premarked Monel. Four rods are brought out with no more than two being fished at any one time. I use a different rod for jigging bucktails and trolling plugs and umbrellas. Four reels with four spare spools are also brought along.

All plugs, tubes, and umbrellas are brought along in at least triplicates. Many are the items you will be losing to the bottom. It is very hard to find replacements at Montauk at that time of year. Bring out a varied selection of plugs, tubes, and bucktails. As far as the bucktails, I have found all white jigs in the 2 ounce range to be the best bet. Once the jig is let out to the prescribed depth, the rod is jigged vigorously. In order to avoid wearing the wire in any one spot, every few minutes take in or let our a few feet of wire. If the blues are thick, your jig should last about 6 fish before the hair is chewed out.

As far as umbrellas go, try to stick to rigs that are one color throughout. All red or all black tubes are the most popular. Long, single tubes are also

(Continued on page 46.)

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Beware, The Cold Fire

by Mickey Chiarenza

The fall harvest of fish is upon us at this time a "Blitz" will be encountered more frequently than any other time of our fishing season. Temperatures begin to plunge, especially at night and surface temperatures in the sea begin to chill while lower layers of water are still warm from summers sun. This is one of natures signals that triggers a reaction up and down the life cycle. Small and large baitfish and other creatures pour out of grassy marshes, bays, creeks, rivers and inlets to the waiting predators who also instinctively feel colder surrounding temperatures and the urge to feed more profoundly for the energy that will take them on their migratory trek southward. However to get a share of the harvest is not easy pickin' unless you can step around some of the pitfalls which prevail during this magnificent season. A lions share of this fishing is done at night but the night fisherman is in another world compared to the day fisherman. The night fisherman has problems all his own.

A problem common to all is with strong winds that frequent fall fishing. At times a seasoned angler can put an ill wind to work for him if he knows where that wind will do him some good. The night fisherman has a problem that cannot be put to work for him and for the most part the day fisherman does not even know of this problem and overlooks it, until he takes a hand at some late day fishing and gets caught. What I'm referring to is "fire in the water" or phosphorescence. Since the summer, warm waters have flourished with minute sea creatures found within it, it's glowing light, more commonly called phosphorescence. In here beautiful written masterpiece, "The Sea A-round Us", the late Rachel Carson describes it like this, "Autumn comes to the sea with as fresh blaze of phosphorescence, when every wave crest is aflame. Here and there the whole surface may glow with sheets of cold fire, while below schools of fish pour through the water like molten metals". And so it is, during this prime fishing period, that this condition exists. To the fisherman it's simply "fire", and fire in the water is bad news. Lines and lures drawn through the water are ablaze with this cold fire. Lures leave a trail of light that could only be compared to a miniature comet!

Concealment of line, snaps and swivels and hooks on lures is impossible on a dark night. To fool wary gamefish under these circumstances is quite improbable. However there have been some exceptions and through my experiences and those of friends some tricks have worked even if at best it produced just a few fish. One friend worked a popper at night and at the same retrieve speed one would use during the day! The idea was to draw the lure past the fish fast enough so that they would strike at a seemingly escaping bait without giving the bait a once over look before striking it worked! Another buddy, used a largemouth bass technique from his earlier fishing days and this method was to leave the plug lie prefectly still with an ever so lightly twitch at intervals so as to not disturb the water. To a degree this worked. Still even with fire I have taken the occasional hungry fish and at one time I actually saw him leave the entire school that was lit up and moving down the beach. He came over to the glowing swimming plug and grabbed it. Sometimes very mild conditions of fire is tolerable and lures worked very slowly can produce a fair amount of fish. Using fresh bait that could be used just lying still or drifted slowly with little movement is another way. My attitude towards fishing in fire is completely negative, to me it's not worth the trouble, simply; "don't play with fire!" One good reason for this attitude is that I have found that fish feed better and more action can be found at dusk and daybreak and even during the day when this illuminescence is at its peak at night. I'll plan my time to fish accordingly. This is also a good tip for the strickly daytime fisherman who want to make the best out of a day.

Peak periods of phosphorescence are during the new moon phases, just before, during and just after when there is the least amount of reflected moonlight. Remember too, clouds covering even a half full moon will bring about the same condition that is just as much a nuisance as no moon at all. Now since fire is not seen by day so it is with the nights of the full moon, on such a brightly lite night the fires take a recess for the presence of light

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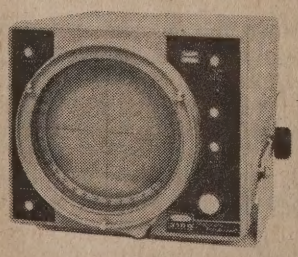

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turns off these little creatures. Although daylight fishing continues as usual during this period, it is usually somewhat better since the tides are stronger with a higher rise and fall. More bait gets pushed out by the tides and more action can be expected on an almost around the clock basis. Remember too that closer inshore the activity is governed by the tides and different stages of the tide will produce better or less depending on where you are.

Intensity of moonlight will have an effect also. A crisp and clear fall night with a bright moon might quiet the raging fires from burning but it will also make the striper more wary for finning into shallow water near the beaches. Any seasoned surf fisherman will agree that too much moonlight will keep the bass in deeper water. In deeper water these fish can be trolled with artificial eels and big plugs; these are mentioned due to the fact that they can be trolled very slowly which is important for night fishing. During this condition the surf angler is scanning the sky for some sign of cloud cover and hopes for some shade so that the fish will move closer to shore. On nights such as this with a wind blowing towards shore is a perfect set up for a blitz. I have seen beach fishermen rack up three and four cows or more on one tide fishing the east end of Long Island. If clouds cover the moon to a degree as to completely opaque out the reflection of light some fire will become evident again and fishing activity may be impaired. Again this depends too on where you are as there may be more phosphorescence in one area than in another just a short distance away, this is due to the varying factors that control water temperature. During the month of June or early July if you happen to be cruising back to port at night and approach an inlet in the wake of your boat you will suddenly see the water light up as the fire is churned up by the propeller. Yet you may not have seen any illuminescence at all out into deeper water. This is due to the face that the shallow bays warm up much faster and sooner than the larger expanses and deeper portions of the sea. Despite the thickest cloudcover of the sun, it is not complete as to bring about total darkness.

Another important fact to consider in planning a fall trip is moonrise and moonset. Last year I made a night trip with Ray Hendrickson. We cast lures fruitlessly through dusk as it was quite clear that the fish were somewhere else. With some reasoning we repositioned the boat to a more likely spot by nightfall. It was quite dark. We were two days down from a full moon but it wasn't up yet and the lures trailed with that tell tale glow. The spot was good, the tide was good for this area, it was a good time with just a small slice trimmed from the moon, but no moon! "Heh!" I groaned, "just can't win when you're right!, what time does the blasted thing come up anyway" I asked of Ray. Knowing what it had been during the summer months he made a reasonable assumption and looking at his watch he figured a good one hour wait. I put down my rod and grabbed the thermos of coffee and some sandwiches and said "Then it's chow time" and sank into a seat. About forty five minutes later Ray launced a lure out and on the retrieve felt a distinct rap. I looked over to the eastern horizon and sure enough there was a mild glow of light. Fish have a fixed pupil and I might add large eyes as compared to their bodies so they are more sensitive to light changes than we are. Ray put down the rod after a few casts as we realized it would not be long now and at least we knew the fish were here. Some twenty minutes later we were both into fish, stripers blues and weaks came over the side. I glanced over the eastern horizon again and saw for the first time that night a large orangey colored moon slowly paling into white and with a smile across my face I murmurred "Son of a gun, ya did it again!"

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Fall Blackfish

by Matt Ahern

I was a lucky kid.

When I look back now, I believe my old neighborhood was blessed. For, upon reflection, it seems some of the best bottom fishermen in Brooklyn lived there. For a fish-happy kid, it was an ideal place to grow up and mature.

I shared a keen interest in blackfish with these men, and in answer to one of my questions, I clearly remember receiving the best fishing advice I've ever gotten. One of these old-timers turned to me and said, "Kid, if you ever want to become a good fisherman learn to catch blackfish".

I proceeded to do just that. What meager printed matter then available was read, reread and acted upon. Whenever blackfish time arrived, I put to use what I had learned. I asked more questions and it wasn't long before I was catching blackfish with fair success.

I also discovered why that ole-timer said what he did: No bottom dweller in our waters requires as much know-how as does the blackfish. When blackfishing secrets are learned, other fish become easy marks for the baited hook.

For the fisherman who has never gone blackfishing, I can guarantee one of two things will happen: He will either become a better fisherman for the experience, or he will return harboring dark thoughts on fish and fishing in general, which, he believes, can only be satisfied by giving his tackle the deep-six.

But disgruntled blackfishermen shouldn't give up. All that is needed is a little perseverence, plus some basic knowledge concerning these challenging fish.

The black's solid, compact body is ideally suited for living around underwater obstructions such as wrecks, ledges and rock piles, jettys, and old wharves and piers. In short, any and all places of a like nature supporting a plentiful supply of mussels and barnacles will produce blackfish.

Tackle is never elaborate, though it's best to use a rod with backbone. The downward surge of even a two-pound blackfish is surprisingly powerful. It isn't necessary to use codfishing tackle, but stay away from the lighter spinning equipment. This stuff just won't do the job properly.

While it's true many large blacks are caught in shallow water, you'll find most fishing is done in depths from twenty to sixty feet. It takes a rod with oomph to drive home a hook under these conditions; expecially when the rod must often overcome the weight of heavy bank sinkers which are sometimes needed to combat strong currents.

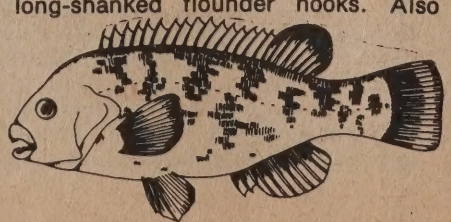
It's also best to use a matching, revolving spool reel equipped with a star drag. Should you tie into one of those larger blacks that fishermen are always talking about, you'll be glad for the aid that a drag affords. Fill the reel with at least 100 yards of 20 pound test monofilament. Some fishermen prefer 25 or 30 pound test, but I've never had trouble with the lighter stuff. It also enables you to use lighter sinkers.

If you are not being snagged occasionally, you're not fishing in a choice blackfish area. Therefore, your monofilament line should be of good quality. Chafing on bottom obstructions sometimes presents problems and cheap line will quickly cause loss of terminal tackle.

To prevent this, veteran blackfishermen double-check the terminal end of lines for nicks, cuts and abrasions. If any roughness is felt, the line is immediately cut back several feet. To catch blackfish, expect to lose some terminal tackle, but this checking will help keep loses at a minimum.

The art of blackfishing is generally conceded to be a specialized fishing, therefore a unique hook has been designed. Known as the Virginia hook, it has an offset point and barb. It's also extra-strong, having a short-biting hollow point, which easily penetrates the black's tough, rubbery jaws. It's available in any well-stocked tackle shop. Use a number five for inshore and the slightly larger number four offshore.

Sproat hooks and beak or claw styles in sizes two to 1/0 are good substitutes. It doesn't pay to use long-shanked flounder hooks. Also



stay away from those hooks having a long bite such as Kirby, Carlisle, O'Shaughnessy and Limerick. Never use the thin wire Aberdeen. A good-sized black will straighten it in an instant.

A bank sinker is best to use around cluttered bottom. Its tear-drop shape enables it to slide past many places where flat, wide sinkers would become snagged. Incidentally, don't use the surf caster's pyramid sinker and always carry a plentiful supply of hooks and sinkers. If you are party boat fishing, you can purchase what is needed, but if fishing privately, you are just out of luck if you run short.

I can't tell you the exact weights to use as each day brings its own requirements, but if you use two to four ounces inshore and five to eight offshore, you should get by all right.

Should you use one or two hooks? That depends on how "sticky" your fishing area is. If really wicked, use one hook. If not too bad, tandem-tie two hooks and attach two inches above the sinker.

To tandem-tie, simply fold the snell of one hook at its middle and put it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This second hook is then passed through the first fold, drawn up tightly and secured with an overhand knot. Takes but seconds and when placed just above the sinker assures both hooks being on bottom.

Don't use three-way swivels or other assorted hardware. Not only is their use unnecessary, but they are sure to become fouled. Nor are leaders needed. Use just the regular-length snelled hooks and you will have no difficulty enticing blackfish.

Bait isn't a problem, as blackfish will accept whatever has, or has had, a shell around it. The list is long, but fall blackfish do show a preference for crab. Green crab and china-back fiddlers can always be depended upon to produce. So, too, will blue claws and sand crabs.

Forget the abundant black mud fiddler. They are generally worthless as bait. Conch will produce when cut into narrow, thin slices, but are primarily used when bergalls are bothersome. Clam is better in spring and should be used only as a last resort. You will get few large blacks on this bait in fall. Blood and sand worms

are eagerly accepted, but are also used mostly in spring.

To bait with the larger crabs, remove the top shell and break legs off close to the body. Cut into two or more pieces, depending on size. Insert the hook in one of the joints, push through, and allow the point to protrude. If using fiddlers, remove one of the claws, the large claw if it's a male, and insert hook in its place and leave hidden.

So far, everything I've written is easy to accomplish. Now comes what all this has been leading up to: How to get that blackfish in your bucket.

First of all, forget everything you've learned about catching other fish. If you've developed a fool-proof method of hooking flounders, forget it for now. If you've found a better way to hook porgies at the first nip, don't apply it while blackfishing. It won't work.

To understand why, you should know something about the feeding habits of blackfish. While not line shy, the black if highly suspicious and this makes it a wary fish. Couple this with caginess and you've got a fish with a built-in challenge and one that is sure to hone your fishing skill to a fine edge.

When the black spots your bait, and if you haven't aroused it's suspicions by stabbing away at annoying bergalls it will approach cautiously, rising above it, head pointed downward, hovering for a closer look. If satisfied all is well, it will begin a series of rapid-fire nips. Hold the rod perfectly still. One false move now and the black will immediately leave for greener pastures.

Unlike most other fish, the black has two sets of teeth. The noticeable front ones are used for the nipping just described, but the second set, located near the throat and called crushers, are used to pulverize its hard-shelled victims. Should you strike at the first sign of a bite, there's a better than excellent chance of missing the fish. At best, you will have a lightly-hooked fish.

If this happens frequently, put a brake on your reflexes. When the black has the hook, he'll let you know with a strong, solid yank. This is your signal to rear back with everything you have.

This heavy-handed action is necessary, because the instant the hook is felt, the black will pour on the steam with a powerful surge, heading for the worst part of the obstruction or wreck. If you don't employ strong-arm methods, the black will beat you everytime. You are sure to be hung-up, which usually means a lost fish, plus rigging.

All this, plus the little "extras" that turn an average fisherman into an expert angler, will take a bit of experience—it isn't learned in one trip, I assure you.

But if you like a fish with a challenge, the blackfish is the one for you. No bottom feeder fights with its bulldog determination to stay in the water. It will take one trip to convince you.

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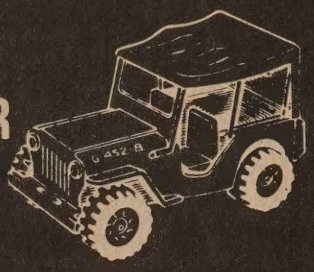

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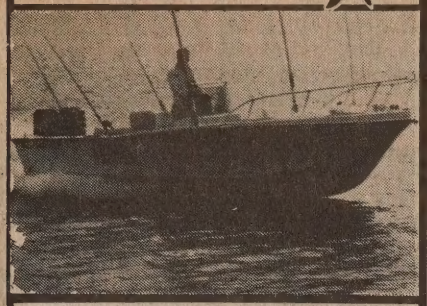

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen II** said that the cod fishing has only been fair southeast of Block Island but it is better than Coxes Ledge. It is a real mixed bag of cod, pollack, sea bass and an occasional doormat fluke. On Monday the boat is fishing wrecks. Night bluefishing has been excellent and the fish are all real slammers.

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** said that the fishing for blues and bass has been excellent and the fall run is on. Bass fishing is very good early in the morning before the blues take over. On Sunday they took 12 bass with a couple in the twenties and about 40 bluefish on umbrella rigs and jigging bucktails. The striped bass fishing should break loose very soon as there are plenty of bass around that aren't feeding yet. On Tuesday the boat went offshore to 40 Fathoms and took one Mako of 200 lbs. and 4 bluesharks up to 300 lbs.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin III** said that the fares are walking off the boat with a bag of fish per man. Jumbo porgies and sea bass are in hot

Pool winner two days in a row. Anthony Kaczmarczyk of Wading River with a 41 lb. cod on Saturday and a 44 lb. cod on Sunday aboard the "Viking Star".

John Bowers Jr. of Port Washington with one of the blues caught on the "Triton II" in Montauk. Subscriber Club Photo.

and heavy in the Block Island area.

Captain Frank Braddick of the charterboat **Hurry Up** said that bass fishing has been good at night on live eels. This past week the fish wouldn't take a plug at night because of all the fire in the water. This weekend and next should be a little better with the full moon.

John Keller at the **Lake Montauk Marina** said that blues are super fantastic all over the area, Shagwong and the Point are producing small fish and larger blues are being taken at Cartwright on herring bait. Trolling umbrella rigs and jigging bucktails is producing striped bass at Washington Shoals, The Elbow, Pollack Rip and Jones. Bluefish outnumber the bass about 4 to 1, but the ratio should be dropping soon. Porgies are still excellent at Great Eastern and Outer Shagwong with sea bass and blackfish mixed in. Big flounders 1 to 1½ lbs. are being taken 1000 yards east of the jetties in big numbers.

Freddie Shay of **Freddie's Tackle** said that the surf action slowed down over the weekend because of so much traffic but it was very good during the week for bass and bluefish both day and night. School bass are being taken in Turtle Cove 1½ hours before high tide. Some big cows are being taken at the Coconuts on swimming plugs at night. Bluefish predominate at Jones and the north bar. There is plenty of fire in the water at night, but the blues and bass are beint taken througout the day on and off and the fall surf run is off to an excellent start.

Captain Ronnie Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie II** and a friend took 58 bluefish, 15 striped bass to 18 lbs. and 70 lbs. of large seabass up to 3½ lbs. on Sunday. Ronnie said that he still has a few choice open dates left

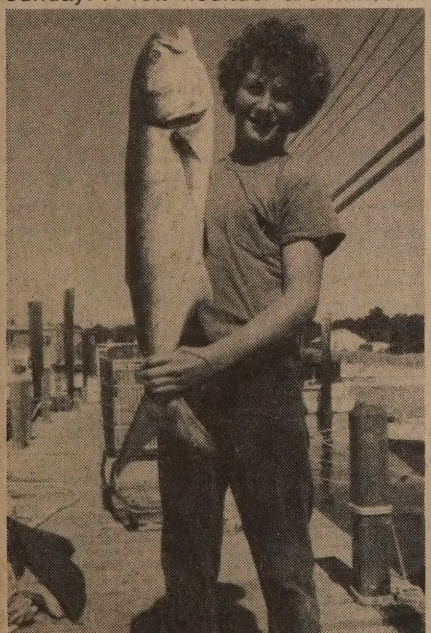
for 3 man charters for the Montauk fall striped bass run that has just started.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** told us that he has been fishing the Block Island area during the week with good to excellent results except for Friday when fishing was poor for some unknown reason. Moses Robinson of the Bronx was hi-hook during the week with 198 porgies on Wednesday. Sunday was very productive with more than 5000 fish taken including a mixture of sea bass, blues, fluke, flounder and codfish with the big porgies.

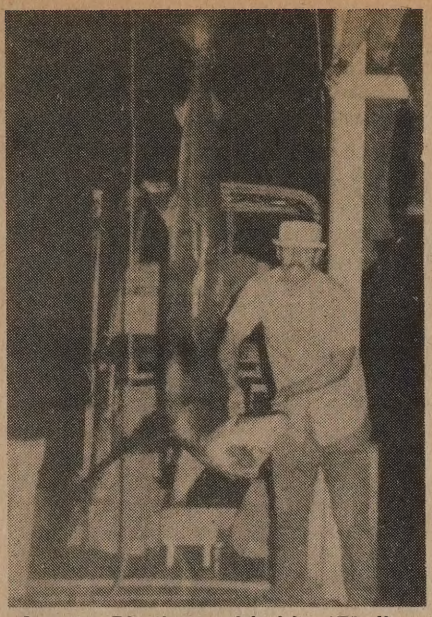
Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to give us the rundown on the boats docked there. Sharks are still being taken 180 degrees in 40 fathoms of water. 1 boat on the weekend took a 120 pound make and dropped 3 other makes. The "Miss A-1" fished Cartwright on Sunday with herring and mackerel chunks and took 65 bluefish 8 to 12 pounds. The "Marie II" took 40 blues and 23 bass to 23 pounds on Sunday trolling umbrellas and bucktails around the Point. The "Bumblebee" had 65 blues and 20 bass. The "Four of Diamonds" took 35 blues and 25 bass and the "San-Wit" took 35 blues and 3 bass.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said that porgy fishing held up during the week at Gardiners Island but became a little picky on Sunday. A few flounder are mixed in



12 year old Paul Edinger of Dix Hills shown here with a 14 lb. bluefish which was one of the many taken aboard the "Hurry Up" on a recent charter out of Montauk. Subscriber Club Photo.



George Plunkett with his 175 lb. blue shark which was one of seven taken by a party of five aboard the "Hooker" out of Montauk. Subscriber Club Photo.

with the porgies and they should start strong in another week or two. Blackfish are very good at Eastern Plains Point and Tobaccolot. Still small bluefish around on top and an occasional bass being taken on swimming plugs.

SHINNECOCK

Micky at **Altenkirch Tackle** told us that an angler had a 400 lb. mako on for 5 hours that was dropped when the leader got caught in the trim tabs. The fish was baited in 120 feet of water south of the inlet. Flounder are off to a good start in Shinnecock Bay off Greenlawn. The fish are mixed sizes. Good sea bass at the wreck by the bridge. Big snappers and blackfish are in the cannal.

The Captain Clark Boats did good all week with the blackfish in Peconic Bay but the fishing slowed down with the weekend boat traffic. The water temperature has been dropping steadily and the bigger fish should be moving in soon. The Captain Clark boats still have a few weekend dates open for cod charters this winter. Give Captain Bellows a call.

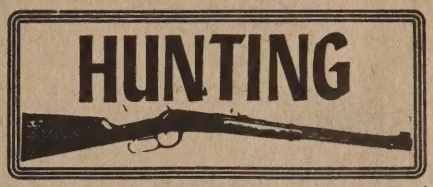
HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reported the flounder fishing picking up real good on the weekend when many boats returned with a full bushel of big fish. Best areas are buoy 17 and off the Coast Guard Station. Bloodworms, chumming not necessary but helpful.

MORICHES BAY

Al Lasen of the **Hi-Way Fishing Station** told us that now is the time for a real mixed bag of flounder, sea bass, small porgies, snappers, an occasional fluke and loads of big blue claw crabs. Most of the action is in the area from buoy 42 and 51. Bloodworms and clam for bait. Plenty of blackfish at the rock jetty in the inlet and loads of bluefish in close outside the inlet. No reports of bass yet.

Romona Seifert of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said that flounder fishing was good during the week and



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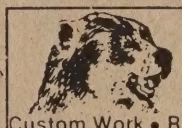

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FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The person with the license number 669-SPF failed to call by the deadline, so this week there is no winner of the Litter Box Contest. Next week's winner will receive $20 instead of the normal $10 prize plus two tickets on an open boat.

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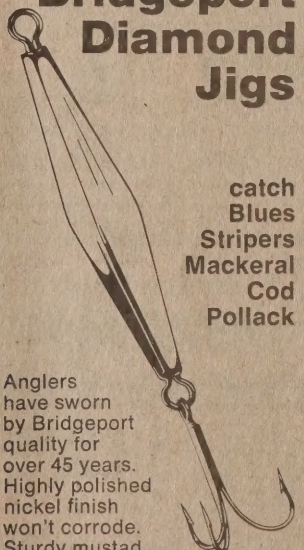

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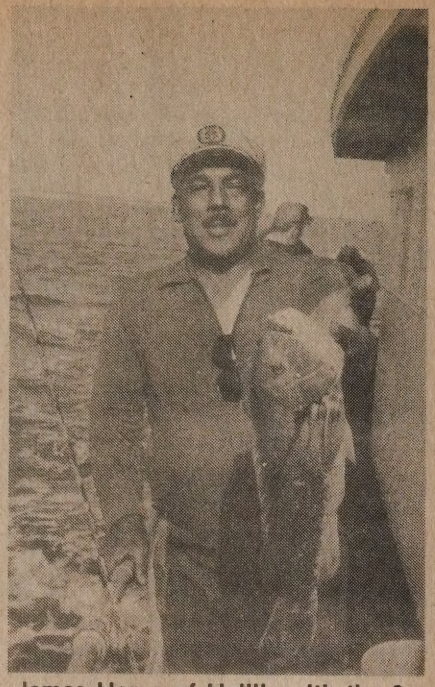

James Henry of Holllis with the 8 ¼ lb. blackfish he caught aboard the "Capt. Clark" in the Shinnecock Canal.

on the weekend. On Saturday John Bagdan of Maspeth took over 50 nice flounder by himself at Havens Point on bloodworms and mussel chum. Buoy 42 is not quite as good for flounder but you can get a mixed bag of sea bass, kingfish and snappers in the hole there. Plenty of big blue claw crabs in the same area.

Dick Hagerman of the **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** called to tell us of a good flounder weekend with all the boats taking 20 or more flounder a ½ to ¾ pound. Bloodworms for bait, clams don't produce. Best area is in Seatuck Cove itself, and anglers are getting a mixed bag of bonus fish like sea bass, eels, weakfish and porgies. Dick also reminded us to tell subscribers that the station is still accepting the $5 discount coupon contained in last years Fisherman's Package.

MASTIC BEACH

Sean at **Keenan's Fishing Station** says that there are lots of blackfish past the bridge and in the inlet 1½ to 5 pounds taken at all tides on fiddlers and green crabs. Flounder are strong, ½ to 1 lb. eating bloodworms. Best area is buoys 17 and 21 at highwater and high outgoing. Lots of crabs at 17, along with kingfish and blows on squid and worm.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vito at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports a few kingfish in Nichols Bay on clam and sand worm. There are still some snappers around but they are mainly on the way out. Lots of crabs at the LaSalle Academy flats. Fair to good catches of flounders are being taken in Nichols Bay at Heckshire, all tides on bloodworm and clam strips. No weakfish or fluke have been taken this week.

SAYVILLE

Young's fishing Station informs us that porgies are being bagged at buoys 4 and 5 off Heckshire about ½ mile off West Sayville and off the Brownes River Jetty, with clam working best. Sea bass and blackfish , blackfish going to 3 pounds and the sea bass to one pound are being taken about 1 mile off Brownes River. Flounder and kings are being boated in good numbers off West Sayville about ½ mile out and at buoy 30 on clam and worm for the flounder which are going to 1 pound and squid for the kingfish which are going to 1½ pounds.

CAPTREE

Noel at **The Captree Bait Station** reports blackfish from the Overlook Pier, Fields 2 and 3 at Fire Island, off Oak Beach and Democratic Point using green crabs and fiddlers. An 8 lb. 13 oz. blackfish was bagged off the Fire island Pier on Sunday. All tides are productive says Noel. The Jones Beach Piers and the West End Jetty also have very good concentrations of blackfish. Flounder fishing is very good in the State Channel from Captree to Wantagh on worm and red died clam. The bays and the Captree Bridge area is also producing flounder of mixed sizes. Some blowfish and kingfish are being taken off the Overlook Pier and the Jones Beach Pier on squid, clam and worm. Some stripers are being taken at Democratic Point, the Sore Thumb and Cedar Beach on live eels by surf casters and boatmen. Blacks are being taken at Fire Island Piers as a best bet. Stripers are also being taken in the inlet off the

James Lawson, Jodi Joseph and Ronni Joseph with their catch aboard the "Capt. Joseph IV" out of Captree. Even though James shared the pool the girls did their job of bringing in some nice blues.

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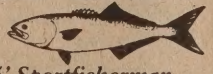

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Captain Charlie Bauer of the **Captain Whittaker** said that blackfishing was fair over the weekend because of the storm offshore that created strong tides. Average per man was 12 to 15 blackfish ranging from 2 to 6 pounds. The fish are in strong on all the inshore wrecks and fire Island Artificial Reef. Fiddler crabs are the best bait, green crabs are not as good. Plenty of small sea bass mixed in. The Captain said there should be at least 2 more good weeks of fishing.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** fished wrecks during the week for bluefish and was rewarded with some bonus codfish, pollack and sea bass as well. The bluefish were 2 ranges, 4-6 and several 12-13 lbs. One day all the fish were 10-14 lbs. Loads of bonito also mixed in. The fishing was a little picky on Friday, constant fish all day on Saturday, and a little picky again on Sunday.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy V** said that bluefishing has been fair to good for the last week with quite a few albacore and bonito mixed in. The blues range in size from 4-5 and 12-15 lbs. and catch per man ranges from 3 to 15 fish. Best area has been southeast of the reef off Ocean Beach in 80 feet of water.

Captain Walter Specht Jr. of the **Lady Ann** said that the bluefishing was dynamite on Saturday with an average of 15 plus fish per man and the boat returned early to the dock. Fishing was east/southeast of the inlet and the fish range from 4 to 10 pounds. On Sunday there was only 1 bluefish in the boat by 2:30 P.M., but the 15 fares took over 100 bluefish from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. in the same general area.

Page 1

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OAKBEACH

Bill at **The Store** tells of a 36 pound striper taken on a live eel by a surfcaster at Cedar Beach on Saturday morning. Also a 26 pounder taken under the bridge on a bunker chunk. However, Bill says there are a lot more striper fishermen now than there are stripers. There are however, lots of blacks in front of The Store 2 to 6 pounds taking clam, worm and fiddlers and also on the inlet side north of The Store on the entire flood tide. There is good flounder catches, 18-20 per man just east of The Store on the bay side, on clam and worm. There are a lot of blues around taking bait intended for the bass cast off the beaches. Point Democrat is producing blues to 8 pounds on bait, while plugs are producing smaller schoolie sized fish.

BABYLON

Bergen Point Fishing Station reports flounders are a good bet all around Bergen Point and in the adjacent bays and cuts. Crabbing and snappers are both holding up, though their time is running out. Some bass are being taken on live bunker in the Gilgo and Tobay areas of the State Channel, and also in the inlet. Porgies and sea bass are hitting clam and squid on hi-lo rigs in the Amity Cut. Lots of blackfish at the bridges on fiddler crabs.

Hi-Hook Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing, averaging ¾ of a pound per fish, chunky and lots of good eatin'. Clams and bloodworms are the tempters. One angler brought back 22 of these flatties on Saturday, fishing off Oak Island with bloodworms. Two other anglers in one boat bagged 96 blacks on fiddlers and green crabs off the Lighthouse, but not over the reef. The reef is producing well also for blackfish on fiddlers.

AMITYVILLE

Jona's Bait and Tackle reports that the blackfishing is great, and that he weighed in an 8½ pound black taken off Kismet Reef on a green crab. Fiddlers are also doing a great job on the reef. Flounder fishing is very good, and you can bag the flatties just about all over the bays on worms and clam, all tides. Kings and porgies are a good bet at the Copaigue hole on bloodworm and clam. The fluke are almost gone, but there are plenty of blue claw crabs around. Try for bass with live eel or bunker chunk at Wantagh bridge and the State Channel from Tobay to the Lighthouse, all tides. Morning hours seem to work

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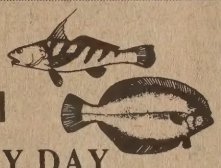
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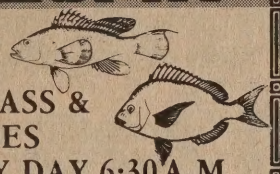
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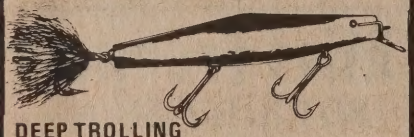

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best. Blowfish are being taken, though they are running very small. Please return these funny looking midgets and catch them again when they are bigger next year. Flounder and blacks are the big number now.

SEAFORD

Joe at **Pop's Fishing Station** reports lots of flounder all over the Massapequa flats and at 4 Corners on worms. The catches are very good, with some boats bagging 75-80 fish. These fish are fat and good eating. Some small sea bass, kingfish and blows along with blue claw crabs are all hitting on the flounder rigs.

Charlie at **Salice Boat Basin** reports lots of small flounder but fat flounder from Seaford Creek to Squaw Island on bloodworm and clam, no chumming necessary. Lots of blackfish at the bridges of mixed sizes up to 2½ pounds on fiddlers, mainly on slack and outgoing water. Kingfish in abundance taking squid and clam from Zachs Bay to the Meadowbrook Bridge. Blowfish are small and in good numbers, but please return the babies.

The **Lucky Strike III** had the starfish Fishing Club of College Point out on a charter on Saturday for flounder behind Seaford and 12 men bagged over 200 fish from ½ to 1½ pounds on bloodworms, while chumming with clam.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports weakfish at high water on drifted sand worms at the 3rd Wantagh bridge, best time is in the morning. Also try sand worms on the bottom on a long leader. Very good flounder fishing in most of the areas behind Merrick, particularly Rowboat alley, Whaleneck Point and Merrick Point, best on high and hith outgoing water. The fish are fat and full of fight. A few kingfish and blowfish and blue claws are mixed into this action.

On Saturday the infamous G. Korn accompanied LIF staffer Stu Miller, who introduced Korn to the hot flounder action off Whaleneck Point. Miller had 43 flounder up to ¾ of a pound, and korn managed, some how to catch 16 fish, including 2 stupid fluke who didn't know that fluking was over for the season. The flounder were taken on bloodworms and old mushy clam baits. Clam chum in a pot was utilized to the fullest.

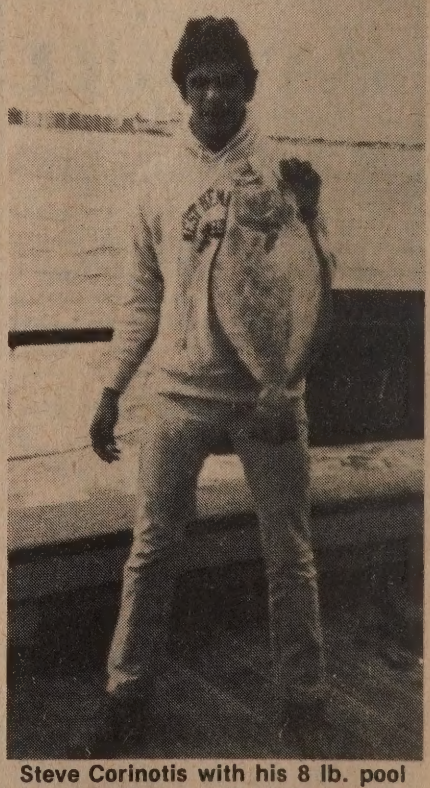
N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Anthony's Fishing Station reports blackfish at the Meadowbrook and other bridges on fiddlers. Flounder are in all the flats and channels. Blue claws are being brought up on hooks and in traps while sea bass are hitting flounder rigs tipped with clam and worm. Some snappers and kingfish are hitting squid and clam baits. Weaks at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sand worm fished on the bottom. Try for weaks with a live bergall or live small blackfish.

The Freeport Boatmens Association had a slow Saturday for blues but it picked up to a good clip on Sunday southeast of Cholera. While the fish were not super plentiful, they were big sized. The bluefin had 150 nice flounder on Sunday and 50 assorted sea bass and porgies fishing Swift Creek.

Roy at **Mako Marina** called to say that Len Aueahan nailed a 34 lb. 12 oz. striper off Lido on a Lupo bunker spoon on Sunday at about 3:30 P.M. Bob Mizorahi bagged 200 lbs. of blues



Steve Corinotis with his 8 lb. pool winning fluke on the "Aloma II" out of Freeport. Subscriber Club Photo.

on Saturday fishing southeast of Jones Inlet in 120 feet of water.

Captain Al reports the bluefishing of last week was very good. Most of these fish are good sized choppers. Thursday and Friday were terrific with a slow down on Saturday. Sunday started out to be a repeat of Saturday but south of Cholera a good school of blues were picked up and the day finished fine with a catch of 250 blues.

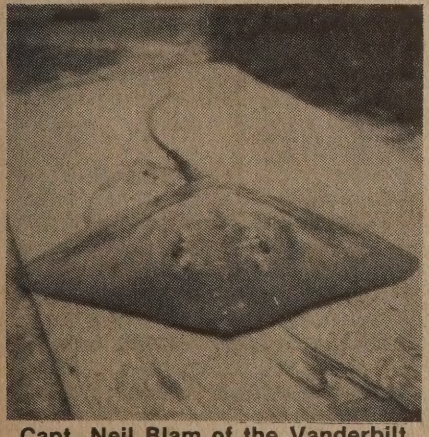
Captain John Grimley of the **Aloma** said the sea bass and porgy fishing on the wrecks remains good. The previous storm did not chase away these fish. They are having good catches of porgies and sea bass with the blacks just starting. Most blacks at present are small but a few go to 6 lbs.

Captain Maltese of the charterboat **Rocc** said the striped bass have been a little picky lately. The clam bellies have not been effective due to the brown water which is clearing. Even so, they have taken a few in the early morning on poppers.

The **Miss Freeport** open boat has been scoring well on porgies and sea bass according to Captain Johnny A. the wrecks are good producers for these fish along with blackfish. The blacks are of good size and are starting to predominate in the size of the catch.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing at Swift Creek and Fundy Bay. The flounders are fat and are taking worms. Sea bass fishing remains good in the State Channel. The Tea wreck and Meadowbrook bridges have plenty of blacks. Striped bass fishing is on the upswing. Ralph Pautony of Point Lookout caught a 27 lb. striped bass and Bob Dimin took a 40 lb. bass. They fished off Lido Beach with white bunker spoons.



Capt. Neil Blam of the Vanderbilt Wharf Marina for the second time this year has caught a sting ray in the Great South Bay.

ISLAND PARK

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** said the fishing is transitional right now. The porgies are thinning out in the bay while the patches of flounders must be found. The flounders are selective in their taking of the baits, of which worms is best, but are hitting a and fighting hard. The flounders are mostly fat ½ to ¾ lb. fish. Frank Herskowitz of Rockaway was high hook with 39 on Saturday. The average catch has been about 20 or more per angler.

The Shearwater with Steve Conroy, John Samsbury, Jack McAleer and son Steven fished Cholera on Saturday and got zeroed out in the morning, but in the afternoon they chummed a pail full of blues 1½ to 4 pounds and took 1 15 pounder on the bottom with bait. Captain Don Eichin is having the

Joe, Pat and Mark Lanza with two 14 inch fluke they caught while fishing in the Great South Bay.

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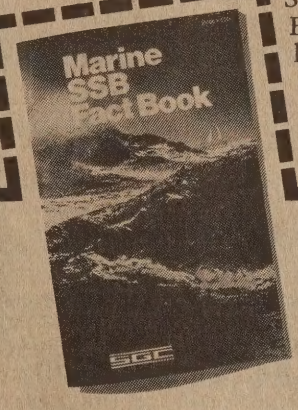

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Shearwater repowered right now so that he can zip after the stripers.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports very good blackfishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Silver Point Jetty. Flounders are off the Magnolia Pier and taking worms. The State Channel has some sea bass and a few kings.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Plenty of good fishing of all kinds to be had said Leon Miller of **Henning's Fishing Station**. Lots of blacks at the Silver Point Jetty taking clam. Flounders are off buoys 5, 7 and the Long Beach High School. The Woodmere Channel has blue claw crabs. Blues are at Sea Bright, 17 Fathoms, Farms and Cholera. Gill netters have picked up albacore along the beach. It is there anglers so go to it.

JAMAICA BAY

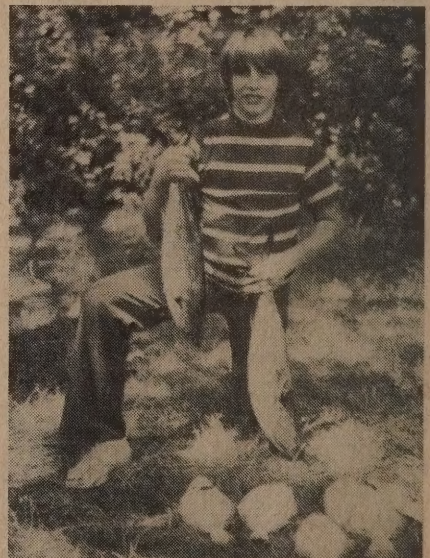
John Brando at **Cross Bay Rod and Gun** said the flounders are making a good showing at the North and South Channel bridges. Small blues of 3-4 lbs. are being taken at North Channel Bridge. Night or early morning is best for them with bunker chunks. Porgies and snappers are still holding on.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Big blues were taken off Norton's Point on chunk bunker fished just off the bottom said Sal at **Stella Maris Fishing Station.** Blues are also being taken on umbrella rigs off Manhattan Beach. The striped bass are hitting live bunker at the Tin Can Grounds with a lesser preference for fresh. Blackfishing is good along the Rockaways and at Marine Parkway Bridge.

Phil Salvo at **Salvos Bait and Tackle** said the blacks are all over and taking fiddler crabs. Blues are at Nortons Poing taking bunker bait. Some striped bass are also being taken there with a few weaks mixed in. Snappers are along the seawall at Korvettes.

The **Amberjack** just returned from its fine day exploratory trip, reports Phil Salvo. They fished many new and untried wrecks and will be able to use this experience to assist them in catching fish on the **Amberjack IV.** The nine man crew took over 400 fish.



David Delgrosso, age 12, of N. Miami Beach, Fla. shown here with 2 bonita he caught while fishing for fluke outside of Shinnecock Inlet. Dave was aboard Capt. Jim's boat out of Hampton Bays.

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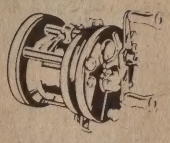

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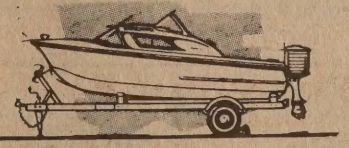

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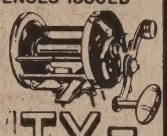

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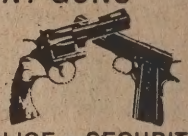

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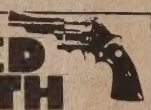

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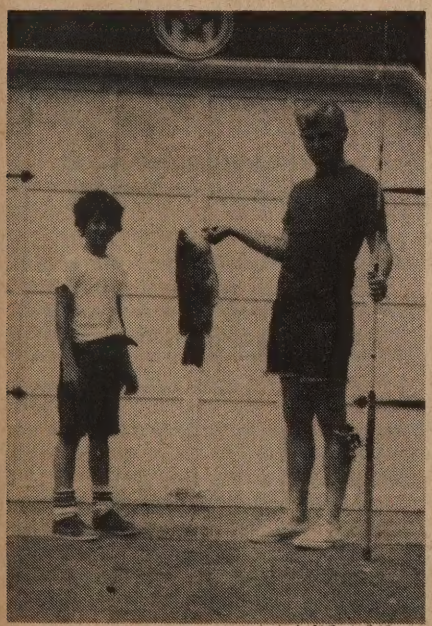
The **Big Mohawk II** had a tough Saturday. They fished off Sea Bright with a party headed by Bob Szablewski. The final catch was 24 blues of 12-15 lbs. each. Sunday saw the Marinars Fishing Club on board and the same area was fished. A great improvement in the catch was had but at the expense of 75 lost hooks and fish. This was caused by the anglers increasing the drog setting and trying to horse in the big 12-15 lb. blues. The club went home with 44 blues, 1 bonita and 1 albacore. The most fish was caught using small 1 inch pieces of bait.

Captain Huck of the **Helen H** reports the blue fishing got better after the storm of the previous week. The days were good and the nights even better. Fish were anywhere from 3-12 lbs. and sometimes bigger. Captain Huck has been fishing his favorite wreck.

Porgies are thinning reports the **New Zephyr**. Thursday was excellent for porgies. Saturday was tough and Sunday they picked all day. The sea bass now is half of the catch. These bass are small (½ lb.) or large (2 lb.) with no in between.

Ken Kreisler of the charterboat **Babe** reports on Saturday the blue fishing slacked off. On Sunday they fished Sea Bright. Inshore of the buoy was no good so they moved offshore. There they scored with 40 blues, none under 8 lbs. and four of 15 lbs. for John and party of Rockaway.



James and Alfred Burke of Rocky Point with a 10 lb. blackfish that he caught surf casting off Rocky Point Beach. Subscriber Club Photo.

Captain Fred Ardolino of the **Amberjack IV** called to say that his 5 day exploratory trip was successful and he found new wrecks which were loaded with fish. "All the fish you can imagine" said Fred. This past weekend's offshore cod fishing trip resulted in 2 tons of cod for 44 men, fishing over 2 wrecks. One angler by the name of Marty took the pool with a 65 lb. codfish. The **Amberjack's** upcoming offshore cod and pollack wreck trips will be October 10, 24th and 31st. All these trips leave on Friday nights at 11 P.M. and return approximately 6 P.M. the following evening.

Captain Stanley Kreisler of the charterboat **Babe** had a 5 man charter of Jerseyites led by O'Brien on Saturday. They took 30 alligator bluefish 12 to 14 pounds at inshore Sea Bright. On Sunday the Empire Fishing Club took 37 slammer blues at offshore Sea Bright.

John Cavallaro Sr. and Jr. and Charlie Haley with the 34 bluefish they caught on live bunker in Huntington Harbor in one hour.

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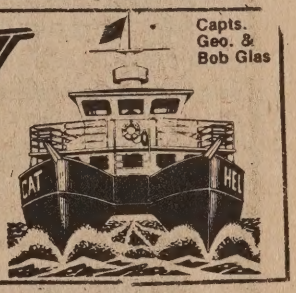

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GETS
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STATEN ISLAND

Still good striped bass fishing at Penny Beach, said Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop**. Worms and poppers are good with bucktails better. Most of the rocky areas have good blacks of 2-3 lbs. with some to 5 pounds. Fiddler crabs are best. The area from Princess Bay bug light to the #5 shoal area has blues of 6-8 lbs. The outgoing tide is best either trolling Gorrilla rigs or anchroing with chunk bait. New Drop Piles, Hoffman and Swinburne Islands all have striped bass. These shorts to 4 lbs. fish are taking worms. Snappers and flounders are at Great Kills Park.

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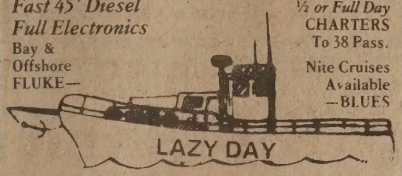

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Art White's Bait Shop reports good all around fishing. Blues, blacks, flounders, snappers and striped bass are all available. The open boats **Wilhelric and Brand X** are both loading up on blues. Blacks are all along the Long Island Sound shore from Greenport to Plum Island. They are taking green or fiddler crabs. Good blackfishing may be had at the Brickyard or off the Greenport jetty. Flounders are at the New London ferry slip taking worms or skimmer. Plenty of snappers in the bay. Fabulous striped bass fishing in the evening in Plum Gut.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station said they have had very very good fishing. Blacks to 6 to 9 lbs. are being taken at the Orient Point Lighthouse on fiddler or green crabs. The Brickyard has blacks of 3-4 lbs. also taken on crabs. Pettys Bight and east of the fish traps on either the Sound or bay side has 1 to 1½ lb. flounders. Eigher worms or clams can be used as bait. Porgies this past week was better at Orient than the bay. Plum Gut has loads of striped bass. A 2 oz. white bucktail with pork rind or rigged bunker or mackerel are your best bets.

JAMESPORT

Frank at **Jamesport Bait and Tackle** said the porgies are at the east end of the bay due to the draggers working

Ted Green, Frank Braxton and Nhugel Green all of the Queens with 15 large blacks up to 10½ lbs. caught out of Orient Point. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

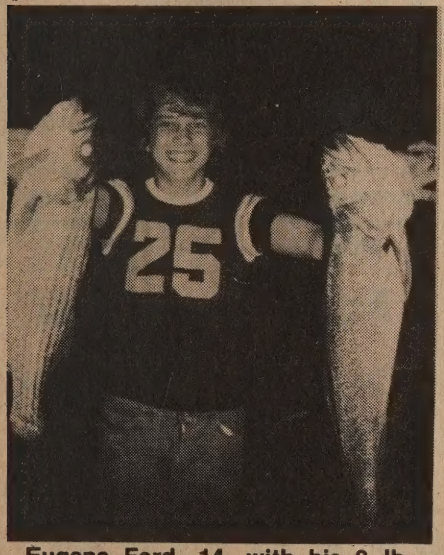
the west end. Blues are being taken in the Sound at low water on bunker or mackerel. Trolling with red tubes off Hartons Point has brought in a few stripers.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Sporting Goods said the blues have been in and out. They are being taken from the beach with bait or trolled with tubes. Blacks have settled in and catches are increasing. They are taking wither crabs or worms. Big porgies still around and flounders are starting.

PORT JEFFERSON

Port Jefferson Sport Shop said the big thing is the blackfish. They are in all the rocky areas. Fiddlers are best from the beach and green crabs from the boat. Some blues are still being trolled but it is past its prime. For the hard working angler a few striped



Eugene Ford, 14, with his 9 lb. weakfish and a 7 pounder which he caught while drifting worms at Cooper's Bluff in Oyster Bay. Subscriber Club Photo.

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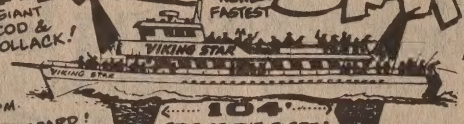

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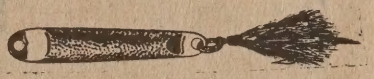

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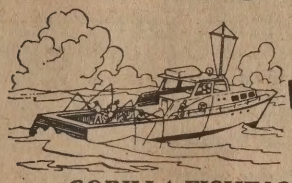

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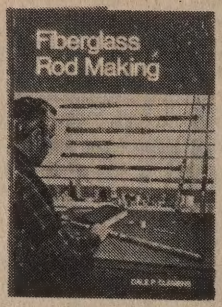

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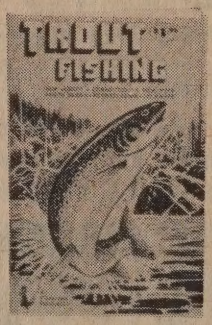

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Scott Sztorc of Glen Cove with a 14½ lb. bluefish he caught in Hempstead Harbor on live, whole bunker. Three other blues were taken by Scott and his father in the 11-12 lb. range. Subscriber Club Photo.

bass have been taken from the beach on live eels.

The Port Jefferson Ace has been getting plenty of blackfish off Cranes Neck. The anglers are averaging 4 or 5 blacks from 2½ to 4 pounds on green crabs. Tony Bresnack of Mount Sinai had 17 blacks to 10 lbs. Porgies of 1-1½ pounds are in the shoals at Middle Grounds but are waning.

NORTHPORT

Pete at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** reports nice striped bass activity south of the yacht club on either trolled worms or cast small poppers. Plenty of porgies and flounders in the bay but the flounders are small at present. Buoy 11B has blues being taken on trolled tubes or bucktails. Clam chumming at Eatons or off the beaches have brought in some big striped bass. Blackfish have started to be taken in the deeper water on green crabs.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle said there is excellent blackfishing at 11B. The fish are averaging between 3-6 lbs. with some going up to 10 lbs. Blues are also there but spotty. Chumming and bait on the bottom is best. Worm trolling off Marshall Field or along the Cold Spring Causeway is picking up some striped bass. Porgies of ½ to 1 pound are being taken at Marshall Field.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready Fleet** reports very good bottom fishing. He will now run only on Sunday as an open boat. The 8-12 run will go for deep sea blacks while the 1-5 run will go flounders and bottom fish in the bay area.

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sports** said the blues showed up on Thursday to Saturday. They were smaller fish, about 10 lbs. and took bait or trolled tubes. A few took large popping plugs. Striped bass are finicky and need some cold weather to move them. Snappers are still around and want only bait. Blacks are sporadic and prefer clam baits to either worms or fiddler crabs.

PORT WASHINGTON

Morelands Bait and Tackle reports weaks still being taken in Manhasset Bay on worms. Outside the bay anglers fishing the points with worms are taking striped bass. Porgies of 1 lb. or more are taking worms and flounders are starting. Blacks are moving into the rocky areas and will take fiddler crabs.

BAYVILLE

Pumps Park Fishing Station says the porgies are still abundant at Centre Island. Blacks have also started there and at Whitewood Point.

John Gaffney with two blues, 15 and 13 lbs. 5 oz. which were part of the catch of 35 blues aboard the "Black Hawk" out of Waterford Conn. Subscriber Club Photo.

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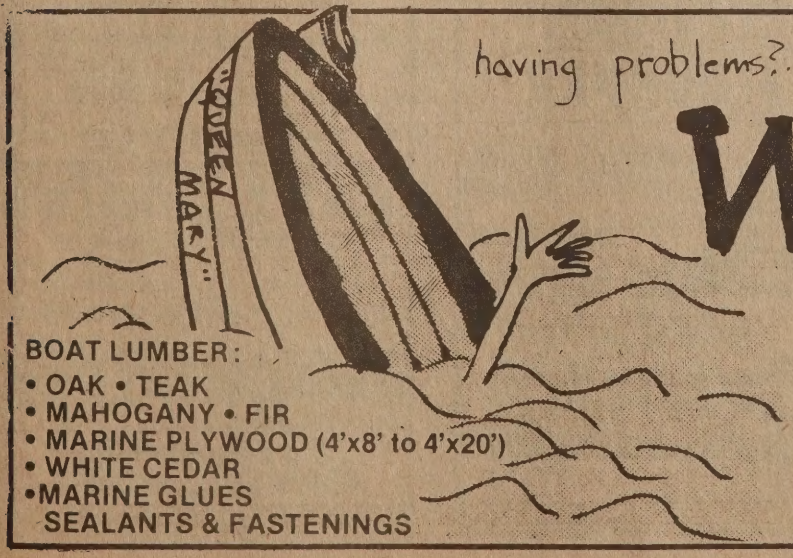

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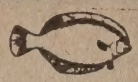
BAIT  BOATS

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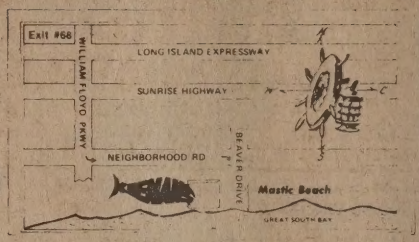

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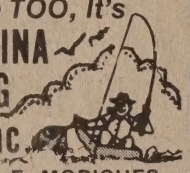

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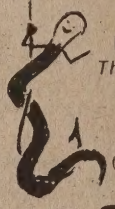

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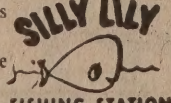

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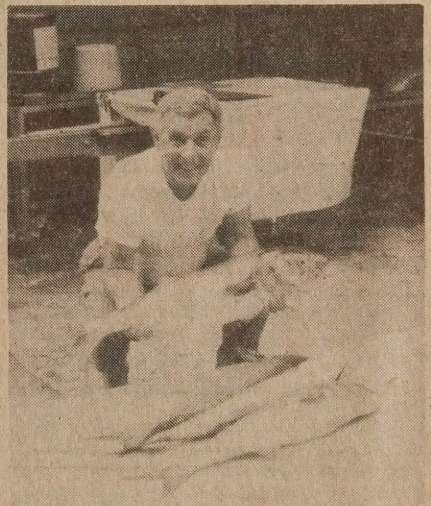
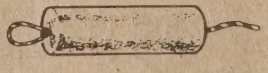


John Salese caught these four blues at buoy 11B on bunker chunks. The blues weighed in the 10-14 lb. range. Subscriber Club Photo.



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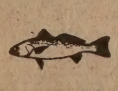
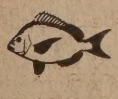

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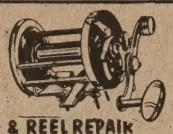
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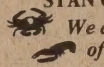
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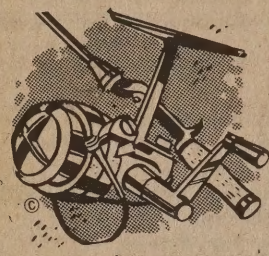

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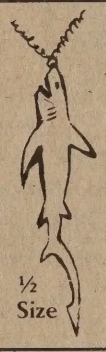
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NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

Staten Island

Stripers are starting to show at Mount Loretta Beach and the Manhattan Street area. Most of the fish are taking worms, but swimming plugs will also score. Big blues in Chapel Hill channel on Lupo bunker spoons.

Sandy Hook

Big stripers at Monmouth Beach on live bunker. Poppers and cut bunker are also producing bass and big blues all along the shore. There are small blues throughout the area taking anything that moves.

FISHING REPORTS

For up-to-the-minute fishing information, read Frank Keating's fishing column in the L.I. Press seven days a week.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

Chunk baits produced blues to 12 lbs. off Orchard Beach. Blacks are in strong throughout the area. Good bass fishing off Harts Island. Plenty of small flounders in the Larchmont to Greenwich area.

Mamaroneck

Lots of big blues in local harbors on bunker and chunks.

Greenwich

Blackfishing on the Conneticut shore can only be termed excellent. Some bass on chunks at the Cows.

Stamford

Tod's Point has produced blues on bunker and swimming plugs. Bass action is slow, porgies are fantastic.

FULL MOON BASS
(Continued from page 15.)

used. Try all red ones around 15-16 inches in length. You just have to keep trying until you find the combination, which at times can be frustrating.

Outer Shagwong, Inner Shagwong, the Elbow, and Pollack Rip are just a few of the more well known places that are fished. Every fisherman out there has a few spots of his own besides.

If the weather is reasonable and the sky is fairly clear, it is a much better bet to fish at night. Dawn and dusk are good times, with the daytime being the worst of the choices. That doesn't mean that fish aren't taken during the brighter hours, just that fishing for bass is usually more productive at night.

Regardless of how well you do, a trip to Montauk always gives you something to remember, good or bad!

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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
10/9 THURSDAY	11:45	—	12:55	1:14	2:58	3:12	2:47	3:07
10/10 FRIDAY	12:11	12:38	1:53	2:14	4:00	4:17	3:41	4:03
10/11 SATURDAY	1:09	1:34	2:59	3:19	5:16	5:36	4:40	5:03
10/12 SUNDAY	2:07	2:32	4:05	4:27	6:29	6:54	5:43	6:06
10/13 MONDAY	3:07	3:31	5:13	5:32	7:34	7:57	6:45	7:08
10/14 TUESDAY	4:09	4:28	6:11	6:29	8:31	8:54	7:45	8:07
10/15 WEDNESDAY	5:05	5:25	7:01	7:17	9:21	9:45	8:36	8:57
10/16 THURSDAY	5:56	6:12	7:41	8:00	10:05	10:27	9:22	9:45

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

ittle Neck Bay	−0 10
xecution Light	−0 06
lanhasset Bay	−0 01
empstead Harbor	−0 11
ity Island	−0 03
ye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
10/9	8:55	3:10	9:15	3:45
10/10	9:45	4:10	10:25	4:40
10/11	10:55	5:05	11:20	5:35
10/12	11:50	6:05	:	6:30
10/13	12:15	6:50	12:45	7:10
10/14	12:45	7:30	1:25	7:50
10/15	1:40	8:10	2:05	8:30
10/16	2:20	8:50	2:45	9:10

PHASES OF THE MOON

10-4	10-11	10-20	10-27
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10-6	7:00	6:36
10-12	7:06	6:27
10-18	7:12	6:18
10-24	7:19	6:09

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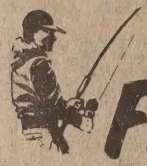

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